

They're off and running:
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Asst. DA Chuck Haines runs for judge.
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Transgender Community
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Designs of the times
'Icons: Magnets of Meaning'
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see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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DEA raids medical pot center

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco city officials are calling on the U.S. Attorney's Office to explain a raid by federal drug agents on a medical marijuana outlet and the seizure of 331 pot plants and \$8,000 worth of equipment. The early morning raid Monday, April 21 was eerily similar to state agents' bust of the Cannabis Buyers Club last summer.

This latest assault on state Proposition 215, the medical marijuana law, comes on the heels of San Francisco federal judge Fern Smith's issuance of a temporary restraining order in favor of physicians who recommend medical marijuana, and her order to the federal government to work out an agreement while the doctors' lawsuit is

The staff at Flower Therapy expressed outrage over the raid and vowed to remain open for business; the center has about 1,000 members.

A deputy U.S. attorney authorized the search. It is not known whether U.S. Attorney Michael Yamaguchi was informed of the raid prior to its execution; as of *Bay Area Reporter* press time, Yamaguchi had not contacted San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan. At a press conference Tuesday, April 22, the city's top law enforcement official said Yamaguchi was out sick on Monday, and that he would urge Yamaguchi not to proceed with the case and to wait until the medical marijuana issue is decided through the courts or state legislature.

Hallinan also criticized the raid itself, calling it unnecessary. DEA agents could have simply called him if they had a problem with Flower Therapy, he said.

Both he and San Francisco Police Chief Fred Lau were kept out of the loop about the matter, Hallinan told a crowd of reporters. In fact, San Francisco medical marijuana advocate Gary Johnson informed Hallinan's office shortly after the staff discovered the raid when they opened at about

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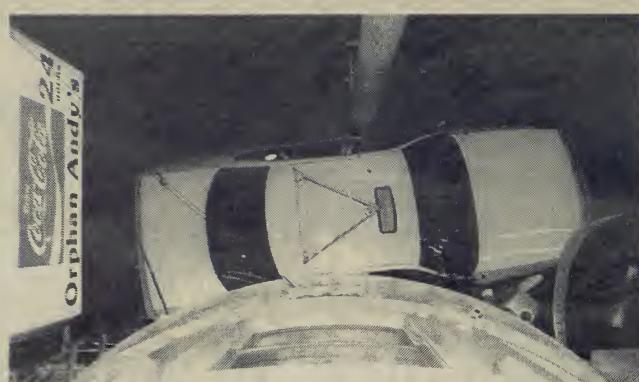
Taxicab mows down Castro pedestrian during bizarre melee

by Dennis Conkin

Two men were arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon at about 11:45 p.m. last Wednesday, April 16, after the cab they hired plowed into a pedestrian in front of Orphan Andy's restaurant on 17th Street near Castro, according to Mission Station police Lieutenant Gabe Harp.

Sacramento resident Martin Myland, 25, was booked on three counts of assault and a count of resisting arresting. He remains in jail on \$25,000 bail, pending a May 1 Municipal Court hearing. James Oliveri, 40, was booked on two counts of assault in the altercation, but is not currently in custody.

According to a narrative police report filed in connection with the incident, taxi driver Aleksandr Sedletsky said the pair got in his



This Town Taxi came to rest in full view of shocked Orphan Andy patrons April 16.

Dennis Ziebell

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Same-sex marriage ban killed

by Dennis Conkin

The state Senate Judiciary Committee has successfully ended a right-wing Republican's bid to ban the recognition of same-sex marriages in California.

On Tuesday, April 22, as it did last year, the committee killed the measure forbidding the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states, by adding an amendment that would have given domestic partnership rights to California gay and lesbian couples.

The proposed marriage ban, authored by

Republican Senator Pete Knight of Palmdale, was killed with a 2-2 vote. Five votes were needed on the nine-member panel to move the bill out of committee.

Knight insisted on keeping the bill intact as a definition of marriage, rather than creating benefits for domestic partners who would register with the state as a substitute for same-sex marriage.

"I don't think it's in our best interest to redefine what marriage is all about. It's about maintaining what we understand is the marriage unit between one man and one woman," he told the committee.

California Assemblywoman Carole Middien of San Francisco said that the amendment presented anti-gay legislators with a choice — to provide domestic partners benefits or see such measures banning anti-gay marriage fail.

"Either way it's another victory for the lesbian and gay community," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The amendments by committee Chairman John Burton, D-San Francisco, would, as those added last year, provide for registration of domestic partners, extend rights of hospital

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Rick Gerharter

Former empress and eternal glamour gal Pat Montclaire was showered with plaudits at the April 19 tribute to her at the Alcazar Theatre. Here pretty Pat receives a plaque of honor from the Godfather Service Fund, the beneficiary of the event. Ms. Montclaire was regaled by the SF Lesbian and Gay Chorus, Jack-E, Large Marge, Marlene and many other admirers.

Gay cop valor rewarded with bronze star

by Dennis Conkin

Openly gay Police Officers Association Treasurer Chuck Limbert received a bronze medal of valor from the San Francisco Police Commission at an awards ceremony Wednesday, April 16.

Limbert and his patrol partner Officer Chris Schaffer received the award for valor for their response to a July 25, 1995 incident involving a suspected robber who had pulled a gun on them in a crowded residence.

"I knew that if I shot him, an innocent bystander could have been hurt," Limbert said. "There's no doubt I could have killed him if he went to hurt me or my partner."

In the incident, Limbert and his rookie partner were assisting a woman who had been attacked in her car while she was stopped at a stop sign in the Taraval District.

The woman was surrounded by several men who ordered her to get out of the car and give them her money. The suspects smashed the car windows, tried to pull her out the window, managed to get her watch from her arm, pulled the woman's dog out of the car, and threw it to the ground. At that point, according to a narrative of

the incident, she drove off.

She saw one of the suspects run into a residence, and when Limbert and Schaffer entered the residence in pursuit, they immediately found themselves in a room with six suspects, and a seventh entering from a bathroom slightly behind the two officers.

The suspect reached into his waistband and pulled out a cocked handgun. Limbert pulled his gun and ordered the suspect to drop the gun — as the other suspects in the room were yelling, "Drop the pig, kill the pig."

"I was able to talk him through it," Limbert said. "I realized that I had the power to take someone's life. I never knew how heavy that life is; how much power is entrusted by the citizens."

Limbert said that the case never went to court because the District Attorney dropped the charges when the man's probation for another crime was revoked and he was returned to custody.

Limbert, a former hospital administrator, has been on the police force for five years.

Bianchi at the Ambassador

Also receiving a bronze medal of valor was officer Catherine Bianchi, who intervened last year during an incident at the Ambassador Hotel. After a crazed suspect struck an officer with a fire extinguisher he had sprayed in officers' faces, Bianchi attempted to pull the injured officer from the continuing physical assault and spray.

Another officer finally shot the suspect in the chest, but he did not go down, and the officer and Bianchi maintained their position in a hallway clouded by chemical fire extinguisher spray, with near-zero visibility and breathing extremely difficult.

As a sergeant drew the suspect out into the open, according to a detailed narrative of the incident, a second suspect emerged from the bathroom armed with a knife and made stabbing motions at the first suspect. The suspect then turned toward the officers with the knife held in a threatening manner.

A lieutenant at the scene disarmed the suspect with a baton strike to the hand after he failed to follow orders to drop the weapon.

The first suspect was then subdued without further injury to himself, officers, or Ambassador residents.

Bianchi, who was an on-site officer in the Aaron Williams case but was not charged with any wrongdoing in the controversial matter, has since resigned the department. ▼

Andaya hearings to go forward without Norman

by Dennis Conkin

Monday, April 21 ruling by Superior Court Judge William Cahill has cleared the way for the San Francisco Police Commission to hold disciplinary hearings against San Francisco police Officer Marc Andaya. Andaya, who is charged with lying on his employment application, had challenged the commission's authority to conduct the disciplinary proceedings, but Cahill ruled that the commission had jurisdiction under the City Charter.

Andaya, 35, had also asked that Commission President Pat Norman be banned from hearing the case because of bias against him, but Cahill pointed out that Nor-

man, a longtime lesbian community leader, had already recused herself from the case.

Andaya was one of several officers charged with brutality for using excessive force in subduing Aaron Williams, a burglary suspect who died in police custody of heart failure caused by "excited delirium" related to cocaine intoxication.

William was pepper-sprayed by the police during the violent altercation, and his death is the subject of lawsuit filed by relatives who charge he was killed by excessive force.

In a split 2-2 vote that forced the dismissal of the charges, the commission ruled last year that Andaya and other officers had not used excessive force.

Norman voted to uphold the excessive force charges.

The panel earlier this year ordered Andaya suspended for 90 days, rather than dismissed, for failing to seek medical treatment for Williams or adequately monitor his condition after he was arrested.

Police commission president John Keker and member Chloe Hewlett later resigned over the Andaya controversy and their failure to remove him from the force.

In other police disciplinary news, openly gay police officer Kenneth Catamount lost a legal appeal this week, and has been ordered to trim his distinctive handlebar mustache per police dress code and personal grooming guidelines. ▼

Wuellner moves into Shanti Project

by Dennis Conkin

Shanti Project has named associate director Kurt Wuellner as its interim executive director, while the Shanti board of directors conducts an executive search, according to an April 21 announcement by the HIV/AIDS support service agency.

Wuellner is the former executive director of Napa Valley AIDS Project and has ten years of experience in HIV/AIDS healthcare and prevention services at the Northwest AIDS Foundation and the Seattle King County Department of Public Health. He will temporarily replace Gloria Sandoval, who resigned to become the executive director of Battered Women's Alternatives of Contra Costa County, a multi-service agency for victims of partner assault and other forms of domestic violence.

"I am walking into a very organized and financially stable organization. It will be exciting working with quality staff, dedicated volunteers, and other AIDS agencies to provide the most appropriate services to people with AIDS," Wuellner said.

Once San Francisco's premiere AIDS housing agency, Shanti was stripped of its government housing contracts in a mid-'90s scan-



Kurt Wuellner

dal that involved more than \$300,000 in unapproved expenditures.

Executive director Eric Rofes and deputy director Melinda Paras resigned in the wake of the controversy.

The agency was forced to pay back the funds to the city and later took its accounting firm to arbitration over its failure to catch the unapproved expenditures during

routine audits.

Sandoval denied that her resignation was related to agency's recent loss of a controversial contract for services based in the Tenderloin, and said that she was confident the agency would continue to thrive.

Shanti provides practical and emotional support, social and recreational activities, and transportation to more than 2,000 clients. The agency also provides hospital-based counseling, client advocacy, and care coordination.

The nonprofit group's board of directors has retained two executive search firms, and expects to appoint a new executive director in the summer. ▼

Brothers Network has new program director

by Cynthia Laird

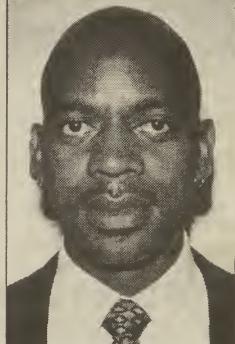
In yet another development at the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP), Christopher A. Smith has been named program director for the Brothers Network, an NTFAP program that serves gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender African-Americans in the Bay Area.

Smith brings a wealth of experience on both the direct care and policy levels. His most recent position was with the AIDS Foundation San Diego, where he was the multicultural specialist for Project Lifeguard, the component that developed programs targeting gay men of color.

AIDS Foundation San Diego recently closed due to financial problems.

Prior to that job, Smith served at the American Red Cross of the Inland Empire (Southern California), first as HIV/AIDS prevention project director and then as associate director of the development office.

Smith is also involved with the LIFE Lobby in Sacramento, and serves as the regional organizing chair for the board of directors. He is also associated with the state Department of Health Services, where he serves as an HIV counselor trainer. He also served on the Inland Empire HIV Planning Council and has been involved with the African-American AIDS



Christopher A. Smith

Conference and the African-American Youth Summit on AIDS in San Bernardino.

The NTFAP is the largest HIV/AIDS service agency in the nation with services specifically targeted to people of color. The local Brothers Network program provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and education/advocacy, treatment education/advocacy, and support services. ▼

For more information about the Brothers Network, call (415) 356-8140. For information about the NTFAP, call (415) 356-8100.

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Bountiful Bears



On Thursday, April 17, the Bears of San Francisco made a presentation in the Corinthian Room at the Ramada Plaza Hotel at 8th and Market. BOSF dispersed \$24,000 in proceeds from Bear Rendezvous '97 to three designated beneficiaries: AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. Each organization received \$8,000.

After SF kicks in \$66,000 ...

CUAV still owes \$120K for Halloween '96

by Dennis Conkin

The city of San Francisco has agreed to pay just one-third of the \$186,000 in debts accrued during last year's Halloween festivities in Civic Center. That leaves Community United Against Violence, which produced the event, facing over \$120,000 in bills and threats of legal action by some 50 creditors.

CUAV had sought a supplemental cash appropriation of \$168,000 in city funds to its annual \$460,000 budget, but will receive only \$66,000, according to CUAV Director Lester Olmstead-Rose.

The city's decision will be conveyed at a meeting with Halloween '96 creditors and the agency on April 30, Olmstead-Rose said. He declined to identify specific creditors.

Olmstead-Rose said that a key cause of the financial disaster was a police decision to ease crowd control problems during the event by opening entrance gates to thousands of celebrants with-

out charging admission.

Olmstead-Rose told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the agency's smallest unpaid bill to creditors was for \$20, and its largest was for \$17,000. He estimated the cost of opening the gates was anywhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

Dean Goodwin, Mayor Willie Brown's liaison to the lesbian and gay community, acknowledged that police decisions were a factor in the city's agreement to provide the \$66,000 in financial assistance. However, he said, the city would not assist with financial losses related to poor beverage and concession sales and corporate sponsorship.

According to an income/expense statement, CUAV pulled in a meager \$20,711 from food and beverage concessions, but spent more than \$150,000 on entertainment costs.

"CUAV is really good at crowd control, really good at advocating

awareness of safety," Goodwin told the *B.A.R.* "The mayor's office has complete faith in the agency as far as its daily client services and violence-prevention programs are concerned."

But, he added, the agency had "some learning" to do about producing an annual event of the magnitude of Halloween '96.

CUAV moved the event to the Civic Center from the Castro, to keep the Upper Market neighborhood safe from anti-gay violence and the sheer crush of hundreds of thousands of often inebriated and mostly heterosexual revelers who have flocked to the neighborhood on Halloween in years past.

Although CUAV has expressed interest in producing the potentially profitable Civic Center Halloween event next year, at least one other group, Mission Economic and Cultural Association, has expressed a similar interest. ▼

Cookbook to benefit Project Open Hand at event

by Cynthia Laird

Hundreds of recipes, running gastronomically from "Crabcakes to Cobbler," spell out the tastes of San Francisco in a new local cookbook; the catchy phrase is also the name of a benefit for Project Open Hand that will be held Monday, April 28 at the California Culinary Academy to whet the appetites of cookbook connoisseurs.

Zephyr Real Estate is sponsoring the event. Zephyr's Michael Murphy told the *B.A.R.* that his partner, *San Francisco Chronicle* food editor Michael Bauer, will also be on hand; after all, it's the *Chronicle's* cookbook that's being served up, so to speak.

The book contains over 350 of the best recipes culled from the paper's food section over the last decade. Over the years, the weekly food section features in the morning paper have explored the unique ethnic tastes, the cultural flair and the distinctive, creative, and exotic

cuisine of this city, known as the "metropolis of diversity."

According to Murphy, cookbook contributors Marion Cunningham and Flo Baker will join Bauer for a discussion at the event. Refreshments will be served.

Best of all, Murphy said people who buy the \$25 tickets to the event will receive a complimentary copy of the cookbook (retail priced at nearly \$20) and they will still benefit Project Open Hand. That agency provides food and meals to nearly 6,000 people living with HIV in San Francisco and Alameda counties.

"It looks to be a great event," Murphy said. ▼

"Crabcakes to Cobbler" takes place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the California Culinary Academy, 625 Polk Street, at Turk. Limited seating is available. Checks for tickets should be made out to Project Open Hand. For reservations or more information, call (415) 552-0129, ext. 226.

Case of East Bay 'murder-for-hire' doc to go to civil trial, too

by Dennis Conkin

An East Bay gay physician who was charged last year in a bizarre murder-for-hire plot is now being sued by the former lover he allegedly tried to have killed.

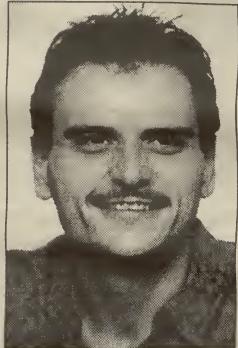
Dr. Gary A. Parkison of Concord, California was named in a civil suit filed by James Swan on Friday, April 18. According to the suit, Swan suffered "extreme and severe mental anguish" over the murder-for-hire plot and alleges that the plot and Parkison's threats on his life constituted civil, as well as criminal, assault.

Swan has also been unable to work and has suffered lost earnings because of the psychological and emotional trauma that Parkison caused by stalking him and trying to have him killed, the lawsuit says.

The suit also alleges Swan was the victim of medical negligence, both on the part of his physician-lover and the John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

"During the course of their relationship, the defendant acted as a physician vis-a-vis Mr. Swan," plaintiff's attorney John E. Hill told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "and gave him some medication we believe was inappropriate" on April 21, 1996.

According to the lawsuit, when Swan went to the John Muir Medical Center for emergency treatment in connection with the incident, medical staffers "pooh-



Dr. Gary A. Parkison

poohed" Swan's concerns.

"They sent him on his way. He continued to have a lot of symptoms over the next period of time," Hill said.

In an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* last June, Parkison had claimed that Swan "had shot up" an unidentified stimulant drug at his house and gone berserk the evening of the incident.

"He snapped and got crazy when we were getting into the car. I got him back into the house, but he went right back out yelling, 'I'm afraid of you, I'm afraid of you,'" Parkison told the *B.A.R.* "It's incredible. I dearly loved that man."

Police records say that however much Parkison may have "dear-

ly loved" Swan, he also paid \$5,000 to have him killed.

Parkison was arrested last June 4 at a Concord shopping plaza after allegedly making the last of two \$2,500 cash payments to a Concord undercover police officer posing as a hired killer.

Parkison and his current lover Michael Merrill were arrested shortly after making the payment to the detective, who had just showed Parkison a photo snapshot of a purportedly strangled Swan.

Swan had been tipped off by police and agreed to pose for the photo to trap Parkison.

A former employer and friend of Parkison's informed police that the doctor had asked her to get a gun with a silencer on it and had begun to talk about having Swan killed.

According to the informant, Parkison was worried that Swan would implicate him in an arson fire of a Concord office housing and executive relocation business he owned in addition to his medical practice.

Police also said that Parkison wanted to collect on a \$450,000 life insurance policy he had taken out on Swan.

In his interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Parkison said that he was set up on the charges.

He remains in custody at the Martinez, California Detention Center on \$10 million bail in connection with the case.

A hearing on the civil charges will be held in September. ▼

Same-sex domestic violence forum Wednesday

by Rene M. Astudillo

While most studies and statistics on domestic violence in this country are focused on women in heterosexual relationships, there is a growing concern about violence committed among same-sex couples, male and female alike. As public disapproval of domestic violence is escalating, more and more community members are showing their willingness to take action on behalf of victims, and to increase their efforts towards violence prevention.

Through the support of the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPP) and the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, Filipinos in the Bay Area are taking a proactive stance in addressing the issue of same-sex domestic violence in their community. This issue will be the subject of a community meeting and dialogue to be held this Wednesday April 30, 1997, at the San Francisco State University Downtown Center, located 425 Market Street, Room 704, starting at 6 p.m.

Topics for the dialogue will include discussion of domestic violence as it occurs among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender

Filipino-Americans and Filipino immigrants; as well as the identification of barriers and gaps in providing services to those experiencing same-sex domestic violence in the community. The public forum also hopes to foster networking to address this issue collaboratively. Presenters and facilitators will include representatives from the Filipino Speakers Bureau, Community United Against Violence (CUAV), Asian Women's Shelter, San Francisco Department of Health, and the District Attorney's Family Violence Project.

Leni Marin is a program manager at FVPP and former president of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. She told the *B.A.R.* that while there are no hard data or statistics documenting the prevalence of same-sex domestic violence in the Filipino community, anecdotal evidence gathered from community conferences, as well as support and focus groups, point to the fact that people are experiencing, or know someone who is experiencing violence within same-sex relationships.

Marin added that in April of 1995, a Filipino community conference held in the Bay Area identified same-sex domestic violence as one of the major issues con-

fronting our community. "It's all about power and control," Marin said, "involving the whole continuum of physical, verbal, and emotional abuse."

According to Marin, while the upcoming meeting hopes to create awareness about the issue of same-sex domestic violence, it is also intended to prevent the further stereotyping – based on homophobia – of those committing domestic violence. "Just because a woman in a lesbian relationship is seen as the 'butch' partner," she pointed out, "does not necessarily mean that she would be the potential abuser."

Marin hopes that other communities will also take a proactive stance in addressing the issue of same-sex domestic violence. She says that it is important that those experiencing domestic abuse know where to turn to for help and support. ▼

The FVPP is a national non-profit organization that focuses on domestic violence education, prevention and public policy reform. For information and referrals, contact FVPP at (415) 252-8900, or visit the organization's website: <http://www.fvpp.org>.

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LOCAL 853

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Reefer madness

We've never had too much sympathy for the Waco wackos or militiapiers who claim the federal government is out of control, and were appalled a couple of years ago when the National Rifle Association sent out fundraising appeals describing government agents as jackbooted thugs. Like most people, we find that kind of anti-federalism scary and out of place in twentieth century America. But the government tests those feelings when it breaks into cannabis clubs that supply medicine to our community's people with AIDS.

Flower Therapy, the latest club to be raided, was closed and unoccupied at the time drug enforcement agents arrived and smashed the doors off the hinges, so there are no eyewitnesses to report if they were jackbooted thugs or thugs in tutus. All that is known is they were acting contrary to the decision of voters in San Francisco and throughout California.

What makes it so exasperating is that San Francisco could use federal help cleaning up some real drug epidemics. Every day more of our citizens are sucked into the ever-widening pool of black tar heroin that's hitting Bay Area streets; and last time we looked it was obvious the methamphetamine epidemic was nowhere near over. (Remember the days when gay men who talked about laying out the crystal for a party were talking about the *Waterford*? We liked those days better.)

But instead of helping the Bay Area by addressing either of those problems – and they are problems, because unlike marijuana, heroin and amphetamines are addictive and therefore cause property crimes and crimes of violence – DEA agents had to go smashing into Flower Therapy. Of course, it was less stressful for the agents to target a cannabis club than real drug barons, and much safer for them. With its small crop destined for people with AIDS, cancer, glaucoma, and multiple sclerosis, the club is certainly not the "large-scale growing operation" that the Feds supposedly feared so much. It is a case of elephant guns being

used to destroy a gnat; and besides looking awfully silly, that overkill is exactly the kind of gun-toting macho excess that so scares the Timothy McVeighs of this world (allegedly).

As the manager of Flower Therapy pointed out, the net effect of the raid will be higher prices for pot, and considering the extremely limited budgets of most PWAs we know, that's criminal. By keeping the price of cannabis artificially high (if you consider that a pun, please forgive it) the DEA maintains an incentive for organized crime to continue dealing the stuff; that situation is good for no one. If the federal government can't figure that out, with all its many layers of bureaucracy and professional thinkers, then maybe somebody from the DEA should deliver a few ounces of confiscated Flower Therapy evidence to Capitol Hill and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Closer to home, fortunately, our elected officials have a better sense of perspective,

and have informed the federal government that San Francisco doesn't need its interference. We're glad to see them standing up for the PWAs who need them, and the voters who made their wishes quite explicit, by denouncing the raid. Supervisor Amos Brown was especially outraged and eloquent; his unwavering support for PWAs who need their medicine might have surprised us a year ago, but by now he has shown he can be counted on to be a true friend to the community, and a super supervisor all around.

Applause, too, to the Sacramento legislators who killed two stupid proposals this week, forbidding gay marriage and sex clubs. Ironically, both bills died because lawmakers simply didn't vote one way or another. In Washington that closes the system down; here in California we have made not voting into its own form of governmental procedure. And Washington thinks we need its help with our pot clubs? Yeah, right. ▼

Editorial



Celebrity ≠ leadership

by Robert Bray

resenting the entire gay community, and I'm sure they don't want me representing them. ...It's like seeing scary heterosexuals or talk shows – it's like saying Joey Buttafuoco represents the heterosexual population."

Thanks for the insightful words of encouragement, Ellen. Drag queens, butch lesbians, and leather folks are not the problem. There is no dress code for civil rights. The problem is myopic media – including the ABC network, which airs *Ellen* – that thrives on sensationalism instead of accurate, insightful reporting and programming.

"I want to get beyond this [controversy around being 'out']. ...Let's get beyond this, and let me get back to what I do. Maybe I'll find something even bigger to do later on. Maybe I'll become black."

DeGeneres says this after brilliantly staging a carefully choreographed media campaign predicated upon the controversy of being gay. Now that she's scored headlines and houseparties, she wants to "get beyond" it.

Television and popular culture are inundated by superficial celebrity and commercial fluff. It's positive that stars are coming out. I wish more of them would. But if we as a movement are going to invest so much capital into promoting them, if we are going to be accomplices in the global trafficking of commercial celebrity glamour, we should require more for our worship.

Stars must use their spotlights to shine awareness on subjects of cultural importance, such as being gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. That's the social contract I want to sign with them in exchange for my adoration.

That's why I, with tongue placed firmly

in cheek, propose the formation of the new Celebrity Liberation Front (CLF). The CLF is a group dedicated to helping recently out entertainment and political figures fulfill their newfound role as "spokes-celebs." It's also about exposing the fact that celebrity does not necessarily equal leadership and liberation.

A first action of CLF could be a Gay 101 Media Charm School for celebrities. We would teach them that if they can't say anything enlightening, at least they shouldn't attack other queers – including those on the vulnerable "margin" of our community.

The *Ellen* fever points out that celebrity and its attendant media consumerism – buy me, buy my show, buy its commercials – should not be mistaken by queers as social and cultural liberation. Our celebrity visibility does not equal gay equality. I believe we must set our sights higher. A true progressive movement for social change can have stars and substance simultaneously. We can have ratings and revolution, glamour and civil rights gains.

But as long as we blindly follow the pied piper time of hype we forsake opportunities for real social change and sell others out in the process. It makes me think of that famous line from *Howl*: "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness/starving hysterical naked." Add "seduced by celebrity" to that stanza. ▼

Guest Opinion

Clarification

The author of last week's guest editorial was erroneously identified as an employee of a cannabis club. He is no longer so employed. The B.A.R. regrets the error.

LETTERS

Open Hand - or closed fist?

I have recently read with interest articles regarding Project Open Hand, an organization that receives great praise for its service to the HIV community. I would agree that this praise is well-deserved in the context of the line employees' hard work and the inspiring commitment of the volunteers who deliver thousands of meals and bag many bags of groceries a week, all life supporting for people with HIV in the Bay Area. However, after working for POH for seven years as a volunteer coordinator, I left as the result of some disturbing trends within the organization.

When I began, POH was a grass-roots organization that spent the majority of its resources on direct client services. The management structure was relatively flat. The relationships between all of the employees were respectful, and there was a refreshing lack of "corporate-like" hierarchy. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case. In fact, POH recently spent \$7 million to buy and remodel a new headquarters, not to improve the kitchen space, nor to provide for volunteer activities, but to provide office space for the ever-expanding management and supervisory personnel. By the time I left, I had two direct supervisors and a manager overseeing my work. This created a situation wherein management personnel continued to try to assert their power by competing for supervisory responsibility over line personnel. The amount of meetings I was required to attend in a week's time, all of which duplicated the same information, took away from my ability to spend my time more appropriately as a volunteer coordinator. Moreover, the competition for power internally has in no way been nurturing of either line staff or volunteers. Conversely, relationships between supervisors and employees have suffered to the degree that there has evolved an atmosphere of harassment and intimidation. Criticism of the organization results in termination, through pressure to quit or outright firings. Once an employee has been purged, the message is driven home through management's mean-spirited derogatory comments about the former employee.

Perhaps it is not too late for POH to look back at its beginnings and realize what was so good that has been lost, and try to recapture what made POH such a compassionate organization.

Pat Curran
San Francisco

Services across the Bay

I want to commend you on the excellent "Surviving HIV" section in the April 3 B.A.R. I am certain HIV+ residents of San Francisco will find the information valuable, and the resource guide useful. I was disappointed, however, at the lack of coverage of areas outside San Francisco, particularly Alameda County.

Alameda County has a wonderful rent subsidy program called Project Independence that is funded by a HOPWA Special Projects of National Significance grant. This program is designed to help people stay in their homes at a time when increasing medical expenses and diminished income make it difficult to continue to pay the same amount of rent. Project Independence began accepting a second round applications on April 1, on a first-come, first-served basis. The City of Berkeley also has a rent subsidy program, for individuals who live, work, or are receiving drug/alcohol services in Berkeley. The City of Berkeley and Alameda County were jointly awarded a grant to provide housing and supportive services to homeless people with AIDS or "related conditions." The collaborative program is called "AIDS Collaborative Shelter Plus Care," and intakes are being conducted through New Directions.

As Cynthia Laird's article on CHIPS demonstrates, the wait for affordable housing in San Francisco is much longer than many people are willing to wait for housing. Alameda County has a slightly higher vacancy rate, and lower rent, which makes relocating across the Bay an attractive option. Persons living with HIV/AIDS may call the AIDS Housing Information Project (AHIP) for a customized search of our database of affordable housing. We can also provide referrals to service providers and support groups to help someone get established in their new home.

The Community Health listings which you included did have a broader geographic scope than the articles in the Surviving HIV section. There are excellent agencies providing services to PWAs in Alameda County which were not included in your Community Health listings. Our most frequent referrals: AIDS Alliance, (510) 655-3435; AIDS Housing Information Project, (510) 537-2600; AIDS Project of the East Bay, (510) 834-8181; AMASSI, (510) 433-9377; Catholic Charities of the East Bay, (510) 834-5656; New Directions, (510) 444-6797.

Leslie K. Addison
Supervisor, AIDS Housing Information Project

[Editor's note: We apologize for any and all omissions from the listing.]

Must-see TV

The good news is that Ellen is coming out on TV. The bad news, due to a stupid TV rating system and the hysteria surrounding this event, is that the very people who should watch the show may not get to. I'm talking about kids.

I wish that 45 years ago the Lone Ranger had given Tonto a great big kiss on the mouth, right there in living black-and-white. If I'd seen that, my life might have turned out differently. Instead of growing up believing that I and my kind of love were evil and shameful, I might have developed a better opinion of myself. Maybe all of the energy I spent concealing my dirty little secret would have been applied to more productive pursuits.

Sour grapes? You bet. Oh, I know I can't change the past. After all, I'm talking about a time when Lucy and Ricky had twin beds, when you couldn't say "pregnant" on TV, and when Kotex came in a plain brown wrapper. A mere decade earlier, in *Gone With the Wind*, Clark Gable had uttered the word "damn," sending shock waves throughout the nation and giving Scarlet her best orgasm to date.

Society was busy, then as now, denying the existence of sex, but at our house sex was really getting a bad rap. It seems Dad was cheating on Mom, who routinely conducted forensic tests on Dad's shorts, searching for evidence, and took me on spy missions to try to catch him in the act. I was nurtured on accusations and denials. It was not a good time to disclose that I had the hots for Buffalo Bob and his biceps.

We've come a long way, baby. Or have we?

Sex was never the problem in my family. Honesty, or rather the lack of it, was the real culprit. Sex just got caught in the crossfire. All sex was bad, especially when it was good. And if "normal" sex was taboo, then homosexuality dared not show its face, much less ask you to sit on it.

The punchline here is that it was my mother's thirteen-year-old brother who introduced me to those unspeakable pleasures, in our very own version of *All in the Family*. While Mom and Dad were chasing each other all over town, Uncle Billy was babysitting with me. I was seven years old when he showed me what I really wanted. Half a century later I still bear the scars of isolation produced by forbidden love.

If only Aunt Bea had slow-danced with Clara. If only Eddie Haskell had foaled around with Wally in the shower. If only someone like Ellen had been there, all those sitcoms ago, for me, been there to tell me that everything was OK, that I was just a good kid with nothing to be ashamed of, been there to tell me what was important and what was not.

So, all you couch potatoes, forget the hype. Gather your friends and your children around you and watch Ellen come out. Dare to discuss it. Dare to embrace it. Give that closet a good spring cleaning. You just might save a life.

As for me, better late, I suppose, than never.

Fred C. Kopp
Guerneville, CA

Bat boy

Let me see if I have this right: The San Francisco 49ers become the first professional sports franchise in the country to offer domestic partners benefits, and Jim Provenzano ("Mall or nothing," April 3) decides to derive them for their historic announcement.

Of course, in Provenzano's diatribe he mockingly states that the new stadium would be a great place for straights and gays to get together and iron out their differences at Bat Day. I guess the anti-domestic partners stance should be expected from a "sports editor" who doesn't even know that Bat Day is a baseball tradition and really has nothing to do with football.

David Lara
San Francisco

49ers called for use of hands

In the midst of the glow of the glorious 49ers' Domestic Partners agreement, my pom-poms shriveled into a messy goo.

Wait a minute - We've been had!

1. How many employees of the glorious 49ers are lesbian/gay/bi/transsexually identified anyway?

2. What rung of the salary ladder do they occupy?

3. Why did the 49ers wait these ten years to embrace Domestic Partners? Would that ever have occurred unless they were forced to comply with the law? Was it merely coincidence that they were reaching into our pockets for \$100 million dollars with one hand while they were performing the obligatory handshake with the other?

This publicity stunt and its impeccable timing was another demonstration of consummate political hackery, not concern for our community and our problems.

Doug Comstock
San Francisco

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As is evident from Kelly Wilkinson's letter (*B.A.R.*, April 3, 1997), there are some misconceptions circulating about the recent demise of Outcasts, San Francisco's major organization for woman-to-woman SM from 1984 to 1997.

There seems to be an impression that those of us who disbanded Outcasts were unconcerned with the institutional stability of the local women's SM community. This is erroneous. The letter to our membership stated clearly that we would support the formation of a new women's SM group under a different name. We have given the new group, the Exiles, Outcasts' voicemail, PO Box, mailing list, newsletter name, and a substantial amount of money. The group that ended Outcasts did so in a thoughtful and responsible manner. I wish more groups terminated by paying their debts and turning over functional structural elements and money to successor organizations, rather than engaging in pointless blame-o-ramas.

There is also an implication in Wilkinson's letter that some kind of financial hanky-panky has taken place and that the membership was entitled to whatever was in the bank account. This is also incorrect. The members were entitled to either a continuation of membership services through June or a pro-rated dues refund. Since the Exiles are prepared to provide services through June, and we have turned over sufficient funds for them to do so, our obligations to the membership are met. The remaining funds have been set aside to meet any other residual obligations. When these obligations have been satisfied, any money remaining will be divided among several organizations doing the kind of work Outcasts has always supported: the preservation of leather history, the protection of SM legal rights, and services to people with AIDS and women with cancer.

There have been attempts to portray the end of Outcasts as the action of a single individual or of a group that did not have the right to make this decision. The letter sent to our membership was signed by fourteen long-time members and officers, including six former co-coordinators. Among those signing were persons who named the group, designed the logo, wrote the by-laws, obtained the PO Box, shouldered the legal responsibility of the DBA, maintained the mailing list, kept the books, answered mail, planned programs, and performed countless other services. Ms. Wilkinson is correct that she does owe us a large debt of gratitude. Had it not been for our many years of dedicated community service, there would have been no Outcasts to grieve.

Finally, it is unrealistic to assume that women's SM groups (or for that matter, most volunteer community organizations) will have guaranteed immortality. Most are short-lived. At 13 years, Outcasts was one of the longest-lasting women's SM organizations. Only New York's LSM has been in operation longer. Samois, the first and most influential of all lesbian SM organizations, lasted only five years. The demise of Samois led to the formation of Outcasts. The women's SM community changes; new social forms and new groups will arise. I wish the Exiles well. By the time another decade passes, I hope this new organization can boast a record of accomplishment as important and proud as the legacy that Outcasts leaves behind.

Gayle Rubin
Founding Coordinator, Outcasts
San Francisco

Black Muslim bigotry

[The following was sent to the Wild Oats Community Market.]

I am writing to you to urge you not to carry "Your Black Muslim" bakery products. I used to shop at your Berkeley store until I found the Black Muslim brands on the shelf. Now I urge people not to shop at Wild Oats.

Have you heard that the Black Muslims are homophobic and anti-Semitic? When the Rainbow Grocery was located on Mission Street, the workers became aware of a television program where the Black Muslims' stance on homosexuality was blatantly proclaimed. Disturbed by these public statements, Rainbow wrote a letter explaining that they were considering discontinuing business with the bakery. After a dialogue with the bakery, Rainbow decided not to carry the Muslim breads. The Muslims were resentful, because Rainbow was a big seller of their breads. So they set up one of their stands outside the grocery. When the grocery objected and the Muslims refused to disband, violence broke out. A Rainbow worker was hospitalized. But don't take my word for it. Ask Rainbow why it doesn't carry Black Muslim bread.

Naturally, I wonder if you agree with their anti-gay, anti-Semitic philosophy and their backward attitude about the role of women. Why would a store in Berkeley, perhaps the most politically correct city in the world, want to support such ideas in any way? If you didn't know this about the Black Muslims, I hope this letter has enlightened you. It's not too late to be socially responsible.

Larry Schmidt
Oakland, CA

SFAF responds

I am writing to correct a number of factual inaccuracies and misstatements regarding the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in a Guest Opinion in the April 3 issue of the *B.A.R.* by Mr. Scott Furman, President of the local gay Republican organization.

As someone living with AIDS and an active member of the community, I am proud to Chair the SFAF Board of Directors, a diverse group of highly skilled and committed individuals. *The Board of Directors is an all-volunteer body, and no directors are financially compensated, as is indicated in our annual financial statements.*

As an AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) client, I know firsthand how important this program is. In the Fall of 1996, the Federal ADAP program received a badly-needed \$115 million increase above expected funding levels. IN ADDITION, there was an equally critical increase of \$50 million for direct-service programs funded by the Ryan White CARE Act, including AIDS housing programs, primary medical care and other supportive programs such as viral load testing that are critical to the successful use of the new treatment options.

The AIDS Foundation has always and continues to push for increased ADAP funding. Just this month at the state level, the AIDS Foundation along with other groups (including Project Inform, AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Women's AIDS Network, and the San Francisco Department of Public Health) successfully urged the California Assembly to increase State support for ADAP *without taking money away from services*. I urge Mr. Furman to use his influence to lobby the Republican members of the Assembly who opposed this important change that preserves ADAP as well as vital services.

Perhaps most unfortunate of all are Mr. Furman's misstatements on AIDS housing and HOPWA in San Francisco – statements that directly contradict a very well-written article by Cynthia Laird in the same issue of the *B.A.R.* Anyone with lingering questions about AIDS housing in San Francisco should refer to the third section of the April 3 edition of the *B.A.R.* In addition, individuals may call the SFAF Policy Department (415-487-3080) for a copy of *Giving Life A Home: HOPWA at Work in San Francisco*. It explains many of the complex realities of AIDS housing issues.

Finally, Mr. Furman charges that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation spends too much money on public policy, possibly because we take positions that he opposes. Over the fifteen years of the epidemic, people with AIDS, activists and advocates have had to fight long and hard against neglect, discrimination, and outright hostility in the public arena. It makes perfect sense why the Foundation took a position opposing the anti-immigration and anti-affirmative action propositions. Nearly half of the SFAF care coordination and case management clients are people of color and many are immigrants – documented and undocumented. These are all communities familiar with hatred and discrimination. It is clear that draconian immigration reform and the dismantling of affirmative action would and are having an undue and very negative impact on people living with HIV/AIDS. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is proud to continue advocacy efforts on behalf of a broad and diverse community of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

It is gratifying to know that Mr. Furman and the gay Republicans are dedicated to working on AIDS issues in the current Congress. AIDS activists and public policy advocates are looking for a variety of creative ways to work with Speaker Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Lott to avoid dramatic cutbacks in AIDS programs and to push back homophobic proposals that would disable many prevention efforts targeting gay men. We must maintain a bipartisan effort, and any advice Mr. Furman can offer that would facilitate success in the current Congress would be greatly appreciated.

Paul Wisotsky
Chair, San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Board of Directors

Celestial picnic

Judy Garland?? Barbra Streisand?? Songstress icons to gay men?? They're okay, but in my queer life it was Laura Nyro who taught me how to scream & wail. And it was Laura Nyro who molded my image & concept of what is feminine (it's a good adjective). Back in 1967 she warned me: "Eli's comin', better hide your heart, girl..." Oh, had I only listened to mother/sister Laura! May she rest in sweet peace in that Stoned Soul Picnic in the sky, surrounded by our love.

Chuck Hayse
San Francisco

Keep letters short, to the point, and legible. Send them to the Bay Area Reporter at 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103, and include your address and telephone number for our verification purposes. That information will not be published.

Elizabeth the First?

by Wayne Friday

Bob Dole apparently still wants to live in the White House. Speaking to a group of Harvard professors and students last week, the 73-year-old "retiree" was busy promoting his ambitious wife, a three-time Cabinet member and currently the \$200,000 plus-a-year head of the American Red Cross, as a possible Republican nominee for president in 2000.

Elizabeth "Liddy" Dole, clearly the woman behind the man, not only has her famous millionaire husband out beating the bushes for a "Liddy for President" bid, but has also herself quietly hit the rubber-chicken circuit. She reportedly has made dozens of fundraising commitments for likely GOP congressional and senate candidates across the country in next year's congressional elections — all the easier to pick up political IOU chits in the next presidential election cycle.

In Mr. Dole's first major address since losing the election to President **Bill Clinton** last November, he repeatedly trumpeted his wife as a "possible candidate" and listed her credentials as being "every bit as impressive" as any of the other possible GOP candidates. Ridiculous, you say? Not for a minute.

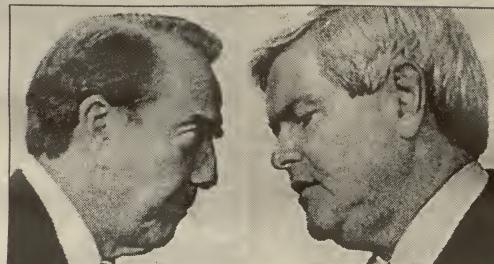
Indeed, it was **Mrs. Dole** who often kept the Dole campaign afloat during the former senator's pathetic run at Clinton. Time after time, as Elizabeth Dole would finish her remarks to crowds, reporters would hear people ask, "Why isn't she running?" Dole told his Harvard audience, straight-faced and all, that while "my days in politics are over, this is not necessarily the case for the other Dole — the one who might yet reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

Though a recent *New York Post/Zogby* Poll of more than 1,000 likely voters nationwide showed the clear Republican favorite in 2000 to be retired General **Colin Powell** (Al Gore carried the poll for the Democrats, incidentally), many feel that Powell is really serious about not wanting to go into electoral politics. While there will likely be a number of willing Republicans wanting to replace Clinton, Elizabeth Dole, the top woman being mentioned at this early date, could very much be a player three years from now.

Another clue to Mrs. Dole's plans just might be Bob Dole's highly publicized \$300,000 loan (which Dole claims his wife was not consulted on) to House Speaker **Newt Gingrich**, which the Newtster will use to pay off the penalty assessed by his House colleagues for ethics violations. One of the worst-kept secrets in Washington for years has been the mutual dislike of Dole and Gingrich. Gingrich constantly criticized the way Dole was running his presidential campaign, sometimes quite publicly. Dole, in turn, broadcast that he found Gingrich to be something of a bomb-thrower who sometimes did the party more harm than good.

So what happened last week to account for this burst of generosity? "Simply a loan between two very good friends," explains Dole. Right.

No one knows better than Bob "Where's the outrage?" Dole that his influence has slipped dramatically among Republican leaders nationwide since his thrashing by



Show me the money! GOP's GOM and the Newtster.

Bill Clinton. Many of those still in control of the GOP machinery feel that Dole ran a lousy campaign. They blame him not only for failing to take back the White House, but also for putting the party in danger of losing the House next year (due to the loss of ten House seats in 1996).

The loan by Dole to the ultra-conservative Gingrich clearly goes a long way in once again making "Beltway Bob" the "Grand Old Man" of the Grand Old Party. The future of the political fortunes of the Dole family were helped immensely by Bob Dole's gesture to the House Speaker.

Bob and Elizabeth Dole are professionals and make no secret of the fact that they are longtime party backers who can ask for support for a "Liddy for President" effort without any cause for embarrassment.

Move over, **Jack Kemp**; move over, **Steve Forbes**, **Pat Buchanan**, **Lamar Alexander** and any other Republican looking to the next millennium — Liddy and Bob Dole still want to live in the White House.

Rhymes with Rick

During a politically charged hearing last week on the Senate floor about whether freshman Senator **Mary Landrieu** (D-La.) should be stripped of her 1996 victory due to alleged illegal voting practices, our own Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, taking the side of her fellow female colleague, reportedly said something like, "Hell hath no fury like a male politician defeated" (just ask Rep. **Loretta Sanchez**). After a terse exchange between Feinstein and Sen. **Rick Santorum**, a conservative Republican from Pennsylvania, Santorum apparently sat down and said aloud of DiFi, "What a bitch!" That remark was apparently broadcast over the Senate's in-house cable system. There are at least a couple epithets that rhyme with Senator Santorum's first name that Dianne might want to consider in reply, except she's too much of a lady to ever utter them.

Speaking of the Pelican State, a state senate panel in Baton Rouge last week passed a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages, even though Louisiana law clearly defines marriage as a pact strictly between a man and a woman. I guess they're not taking anything for granted.

Politicos in both major parties are wondering what the hell is taking Oakland federal Judge **Claudia Wilken** so long in ruling on the term-limits issue. Come on, Your Honor, the trial ended last October, and antsy lawmakers eager for another term in office are biting their nails.

Our Man Friday



Overheard at City Hall: "I'm supporting **Susan Leal** for city treasurer, although I hate giving **Willie Brown** another appointment [to the board]." Well, Leal will make a great treasurer, and Da Mayor already calls the shots at the Board of Supes, so one more appointment won't make any difference.

Those running the "Yes on D & F" 49ers stadium campaign won't say so, but I can tell you that if the plan loses in June, a group of big-buck LA boys (where they no longer have a pro football team) are ready to make the Niners an offer.

Anyone who really thinks our guys will never leave SF

should think again.

Hey, I loathe gun-toting, cold-blooded gang-bangers as much as anyone, but can't say I agree with the likes of **Pete Wilson** and Assembly Speaker **Cruz Bustamante** that the death penalty should be lowered to age 14. Life in the joint with no possibility of parole should get the message across to these punks.

Remember back in 1990 when Dianne Feinstein stood before the state Democratic convention in Sacramento and declared, "Yes, I support the death penalty" and was booted by the delegates for over 30 seconds? (She went on, incidentally, to kick ass in the primary.) Well, here it is 1997 — and guess what? Democrats up and down the state are urging Dianne Feinstein to run against scary conservative **Dan Lungren**, and not one of her possible Democratic primary opponents (**Gray Davis**, **Alfred Checchi**, **Kathleen Connell**, **Leon Panetta**, etc.) opposes the death penalty.

Twenty years ago, **Harvey Milk** and his friends founded the SF Gay Democratic Club, now the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Club. The Milk Club will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a big party at the Trocadero on May 22. Call 821-2217 for more information. ▼

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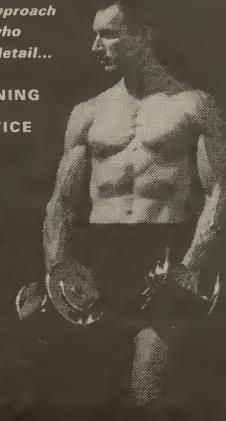


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— Carole Fiedler



Pink is for girls

by Beth Elliott

And Blue Is For ... Wishful Thinkers Dept.: That cynical laughter all around you was at the release, and bad reviews in response thereto, of the new Kevin "Mallrats" Smith film, *Chasing Amy*. A main character is a comic book artist who starts dating a man "as a friend" and eventually discovers she's not a lesbian at all. But wait — the stupidity was compounded by press tour interviews with the lead actress, Joey Lauren Adams, writer/director Smith's girlfriend.

I know what you're thinking: this movie is the result of Smith's having had the hots for a lesbian who declined to fall for him in return. Boy meets girl, boy never has a chance with girl because she wants to meet girl, boy makes his fantasy into a movie in which, unlike real life, boy gets girl anyway. Well, shame on you for jumping to conclusions! Adams assures us the story did not come from an ill-fated Kevin Smith infatuation. So there, oh ye laughing cynics!

Actually, Adams explains this is "a legitimate story" because it's "based on the fact that Kevin Smith's producer was in love with a lesbian for a long time." (Ooh, well, that certainly gives it the ring of truth!)

Of course, this begs the question of whether one can call it love if it's unrequited, no matter how intense one's own feelings may be. Attraction, infatuation, and obsession can exist in a vacuum; love cannot. You can't call it love if you've never had the chance to get to know the object of your affection better and discover whether there are deeper feelings that remain after the initial flush of attraction has run its course. I've held myself to this standard, which is why I refer to one episode of falling on my face as the great unrequited infatuation — not love — of my life, despite the prolonged intensity of my feelings.

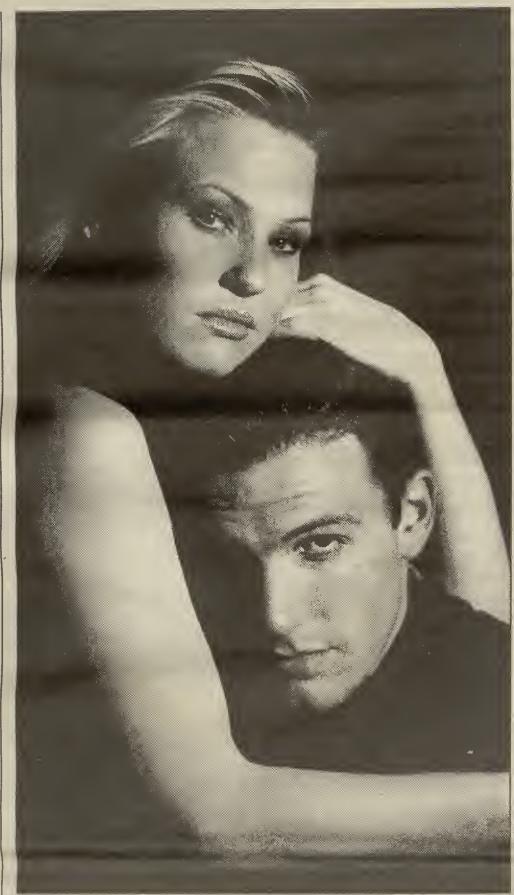
Love also means valuing the object of your affections for the person she indeed is, which, in the case of a straight man smitten with a lesbian, means giving up and making an honest attempt at friendship. And that means being happy for her, wistful though you might be, when her heart goes all aflutter for another woman. Love presumes respect.

Layer of hostility

Not that this happened here. The review of the movie (the *Chronicle*'s Little Man just sat there — think two stars) revealed a layer of hostility at lesbians for the hold they had on the female lead and, presumably, for the real (and presumably unavailable) lesbian for whom this character stood proxy. The male lead's best friend is the mouthpiece for all the resentment; among other things, he refers to us lesbians as "the Pink Mafia."

But ain't that America, home of the free: little pink Mafias for you and me. Yeah, we're the Pink Mafia, all right — we'll make you an offer you can't deconstruct. Which leads us to:

It's Delightful, It's Delovely, It's Denial! Dept.: And oh, the many varieties! There's denial of the reality that we really are in-



Daniel Fierici

Boy meets lez: Ben Affleck (right) and Joey Lauren Adams in Kevin Smith's *Chasing Amy*.

interested in other women and not in those straight boys who overlook all the available straight and bisexual women who complain about the lack of good, eligible men. Then there's denial of the reality that we get involved with women because we honestly do love women and prefer their love, not because a woman could only feel that intensely for anyone but a man because she's so horny she'll shut up anything (which appears to be the denial Jerry Falwell, et al. are in).

And then there's my very favorite form of denial (and I mean that with all the irony and sarcasm I can muster, which y'all know by now is a considerable amount): the denial engaged in by those former lesbians who do couple up with or even marry men, then insist to the world — especially to the lesbian world — that they are still lesbians and not bisexual. That's the one that most severely tests the admonition, "Now, Bethie, don't get too upset; you know the average IQ is 100," and makes me want to reply, "And that must be peak, not RMS."

Legend in her own mind

Funny, but it's the most self-promoting "professional lesbians" who, upon moving on (which they're entitled to do and more happiness to them), are in the greatest and loudest denial that they are by definition bisexual or even heterosexual.

And yes, I'm talking about that

legend in her own mind, Joann Loulan, self-proclaimed lesbian sex and relationship expert. Loulan declared in a recent *Advocate* interview that she's now in a serious relationship with a man, then lied her ass off — right to our faces — by saying she's a lesbian and not bisexual. Hey, some "expert," right? Doesn't even know that lesbians have their significant relationships with (duh!) women!

And haven't we seen this movie before, too? I think so — let's go search *The Beth Files* (and maybe I'll find my own Scully in the process, sigh!). Ah, here it is: lead paragraph of an essay in the on-deck issue of *Out/Look* when they ran out of money and folded: "What's wrong with this picture: A woman writes her local lesbian/gay monthly to comment on an article's point-blank statement that 'Lesbians fuck men.' She reports that a straight man has been after her to sleep with him; when she tells him, 'I'm not interested, I'm a lesbian,' he replies that *On Our Backs* says lesbians do indeed have sex with men — so she should only get with it and stop denying herself this 'significant experience'."

I've always thought Joann Loulan was a dip. And now, to my dismay, she's publicly confirmed my appraisal. She's insisted all lesbian desire works on a butch/femme dynamic; I guess this is her ultimate wish fulfillment. It's also an insult to all of us, lesbian or bi, who work so hard to have our love for women taken seriously. "Experts" should debunk stereotypes and wishful thinking; all Joann Loulan has done is exploit us, as I've said all along. ▼

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2. The project will be the first major economic development project to benefit San Francisco's most neglected neighborhood.

The project not only will provide thousands of permanent jobs for neighborhood residents, including 1000 jobs designated for welfare recipients, it will stimulate small business development along the Third Street transit corridor.

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Build the Stadium. Create the Jobs. Vote YES on Propositions D & F.

GLAAD works with ad execs to rethink gay issues

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media
resource center manager

This week, GLAAD uncovered an unsettling internal report by Leo Burnett Media, the advertising agency for McDonald's, about how to position the fast-food giant's ads in regards to gay television content. The report stated, among other things, that McDonald's "cannot completely avoid" gay program content, but "must set parameters to ensure McDonald's continues to appear in suitable environment." In order to establish these "parameters," Leo Burnett questioned whether to pull from "discussion of homosexuality," "major gay story lines," and/or "intimate contact between same-sex couples." The report noted McDonald's has "traditionally

avoided homosexual content when possible," but that it was "becoming more difficult to avoid as it becomes more commonplace."

GLAAD communicated with Robert Brennan, executive vice president and U.S. media director for Leo Burnett, about the language used in the report and the potential divisiveness of the implications of the report. In an April 15 letter from Brennan to GLAAD, he stated that "it is incumbent upon me to continually encourage our team to demonstrate at all times and in all communication the sensitivity which we have for all individuals." Further, he committed to "implementing measures to improve how we discuss gay and lesbian media, programming and marketing" through "diversity training with a specific gay and lesbian sensitivity module

into our overall media training" and "when reporting on relevant, timely social issues," to more closely review documents "to better ensure that any type of analysis is dealt with appropriately."

Please commend Leo Burnett Media for swiftly addressing GLAAD's concerns and encourage them to make good on their word. Also, ask McDonald's to articulate why they have "traditionally avoided" lesbian and gay-inclusive content in selecting where to advertise. Contact: Robert C. Brennan, U.S. Media Director, Leo Burnett Media, 35 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601, fax: 312.220.3299; McDonald's, 1 Crock Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60521.

Married ...with lesbian

The April 28 *Married ...With Children*, airing just two days before the big coming out episode of *Ellen*, gives its own slant on lesbian coming out when Marcy's (out lesbian actress Amanda Bearse) identical twin cousin Mandy comes to town. Both Al and Jefferson find themselves attracted to the more laid-back and sassy Mandy, while man-hungry Marcy stews with jealousy, because once again her cousin is getting all the boy attention. But Mandy, as it turns out, is a lesbian, and comes out to Al, who first tries to identify with her sexual orientation through his concept of "lesbian" (i.e. the women he sees in porn movies). When Mandy asks him if he thinks there is anything wrong with two women being together, he replies, "Not if there's a man watching!" Eventually, though, he not only accepts Mandy for who she is, but helps Marcy come to terms with her cousin's sexual orientation. Even Peg takes a liking to sweet-talking Mandy. In addition, at the very end, another character on the show comes out as gay.

In its own absurd and crude way, *Married ...With Children* has created an excellent episode which shows how gay people help to make up our diverse society, our families and our friends.

Please thank Fox, and encourage them to bring Mandy back every once in a while. Contact: Brett King, Program Director

Fox Broadcasting Company, PO Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213, fax: 310.369.1433, e-mail: askfox@foxinc.com.

Wendy's Dave Thomas on 'Ellen': Chicken nugget

In other fast-food news, Wendy's has announced that while it was never scheduled to advertise on the April 30 coming out episode of ABC's *Ellen*, it has pulled all sponsorship from the show. According to Wendy's spokesperson Denny Lynch, the move was prompted by the media attention to title character Ellen Morgan's coming out as a lesbian. In the April 16 *USA Today*, Lynch said, "The story content no longer fits our advertising guidelines, which are primarily to avoid controversial subjects." In the same article, GLAAD Communications Director Alan Klein called the pull-out a "weakly way of not being inclusive. I think diversity is the bedrock of American culture, and for corporations to avoid dealing with the fact that gays and lesbians are part of the rich and diverse culture of America means they are blinded by their own bigotry." The Wendy's annual meeting will be in Columbus, Ohio on April 29.

Let Wendy's know that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their families and friends eat fast food, too, and that they will think twice about supporting a business that refuses to support inclusive TV programming. Contact: Wendy's, 4288 W. Dublin Granville Rd., Dublin, OH 43017.

Not All My Children anymore

In an expected but disappointing move, ABC Daytime is pushing the gay characters on *All My Children* — the only ones on daytime soaps — off to the sidelines. According to numerous sources, including the April 19 *TV Guide*, Chris Bruno, who plays openly gay high school teacher Michael Delaney, is not renewing his contract. He will, however, remain a tangential character, returning at "Thanksgiving, Christmas, whatever," ac-

cording to Bruno. Meanwhile, Kevin (Ben Jorgensen), Pine Valley's gay teenager, has had very little plot development, and Michael's boyfriend Brad (Daniel McDonald) will have little or no place without his contract player boyfriend.

Since Bruno is not completely leaving the show, ABC Daytime does not have to replace the actor with someone else to play the character on a more regular basis. Both Michael and Brad are left in soap opera limbo, and gay representation on *All My Children* is basically on hold. Now, as Kevin remains essentially the only gay character left standing on daytime dramas, it is even more critical that he be given a significant, sensitive and well-developed storyline over the next few months.

Encourage ABC Daytime to introduce new lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters to Pine Valley and all their soap communities and to give AMC's Kevin a full life and an engaging story. Contact: ABC Daytime, 77 W. 66th Street, New York, NY 10023-6201, fax: 212.456.2381, e-mail: daytime@ccabc.com.

Oprah catches hell for being supportive of Ellen

During her April 15 broadcast, talk-show diva Oprah Winfrey reported that she has received both positive and negative letters since she participated in the taping of the April 30 *Ellen*. On the negative side, two of three letters she read on camera attacked her for "promoting lesbianism," and she said that members of her own staff had told her she would go to hell for her involvement in the history-making episode. An audience member on the verge of tears also challenged Winfrey's Christian faith because of her embracing of an openly lesbian title character and Ellen DeGeneres herself coming out of the closet. However, one letter she read, from the "bins" of letters she received, commended her for being so supportive of Ellen, and Winfrey said that her faith is about loving instead of judging, and many audience members applauded her and supported her. DeGeneres will appear on *Oprah* on April 30.

Please thank Oprah for her support of the *Ellen* show, DeGeneres, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Contact: Oprah Winfrey, Oprah, 110 N. Carpenter Road, Chicago, Illinois 60607 ▼

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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How good is knowledge?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Should scientists work in ivory towers? Should they search for the truth, regardless of the effects, good or bad, that their discoveries may have on society? Or should they plan their research so that it will confer the greatest possible benefit and the least possible harm? How answerable, in other words, should scientists be for the uses to which their research is put?

These questions are particularly relevant to research into the basis of sexual orientation. That's because people have such differing views as to whether homosexuality is desirable or undesirable. Quite a few people have told me that they wish this kind of research wasn't being done, because they fear that it will be misused. This fear is at the center of Jonathan Tolins's play *The Twilight of the Golds*, in which a woman aborts her fetus after finding out (through scanning of the fetus's hypothalamus, and by genetic tests) that it will be gay. The message of the play, it seems, is that scientists who work in this area are either homophobic straight people or self-loathing homosexuals.

I do not deny that this field of research has the potential for abuse. History is full of examples of attempts to "cure" gay people (mostly men) by means of traumatic biological techniques such as hormone treatment. These techniques have not worked, but it is possible that eventually a technique will be developed that does work. In a creative endeavor of my own, the medical thriller *Albrick's Gold*, I explore a scenario for how brain scientists might actually develop a "successful" procedure to alter people's sexual orientation. It's a grim prospect.

So how can I justify doing research that might help make this fiction into fact? Firstly, I do so by appealing to the value of knowledge about ourselves, regardless of any practical consequences. If it's worthwhile trying to understand what makes us human, then it's worthwhile trying to understand what is most human about us: our diversity. And sexual orientation is a central aspect of human diversity that deserves to be explored without thought for the consequences. In other words, I believe in the ivory tower. It's where most of our understanding of the world and ourselves has been won.

But I also believe that knowledge about sexual orientation, like most knowledge, has the potential for practical benefit as well as for harm. And the most obvious benefit, as I see it, is helping change homophobic attitudes. Many surveys, in the U.S. and elsewhere, have shown that people with anti-gay attitudes also tend to be skeptical that homosexuality really exists in any deep sense: they think that there's nothing more to homosexuality than straight people acting out of character. This attitude was first expressed by the Bible's Paul ("changing the natural use into that which is against nature"), and it is now encapsulated in the central dogma of anti-gay thought: the idea that homosexuality is nothing more than a "chosen lifestyle."

Biology does not say whether homosexuality is good or bad, but it does reinforce what most gay people believe about themselves: that their sexual orientation is a central, defining aspect of their natures, not a mere set of behav-

iors that anyone might or might not display, as whim or morality might dictate. This view has implications in the legal field: for example, as to whether gay people are entitled to protection from discrimination under equal-protection doctrine.

But more importantly, it carries the potential to change homophobic attitudes at a grassroots level. One 1992 study (by psychologists Julie Piskur and Douglas Degelman) actually documented this effect: a group of students who read research reports supporting a biological basis for sexual orientation developed more gay-friendly attitudes than a comparison group who read reports arguing against such a basis. And in real life, I have met quite a number of people who seem to exemplify this effect: for example, the editor of the *Arizona Republic*, William Cheshire, who in 1991 retracted a series of anti-gay editorials after reading sci-

entific papers on the subject of homosexuality.

Whether scientific knowledge about sexual orientation is misused will depend, in large measure, on our own actions: whether we can persuade the world that gay people should be respected as individuals and valued for the unique contribution they bring to society. I think we can. This is where I disagree with Jonathan Tolins. He, it seems, cannot imagine a world in which a gay child would be welcomed. Yet only by imagining such a world can we help bring it into being. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press), and *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak/Masquerade Books).

Queer
Science



EJ Camp/Showtime

The cast of the recent Showtime production of *Twilight of the Golds*.

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Axed by ABC: George Rosenfield (left) and Dr. Ellen Wagner at the April 22 HRC press conference. Jane Philomen Oliphant

Endless 'Ellen'

Parties abound, local TV will show gay ads

by Cynthia Laird

Next Wednesday's episode of the television sitcom *Ellen*, in which character Ellen Morgan steps out of the closet just weeks after star Ellen DeGeneres announced she's gay, has set off a flood of parties in the queer community to celebrate the historic event.

In case you've haven't been overexposed to the news, the show airs April 30 on ABC. It will mark the first time a lead television character on a network sitcom has acknowledged being gay.

At least in the Bay Area, viewers will also see a commercial produced by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) that will air during the "Coming Out" episode. Ellen Wagner with the HRC was in San Francisco Tuesday, April 22 to unveil the ad, which raises awareness that job discrimination based on sexual orientation remains legal in 41 states. The ABC network rejected the commercial as being too controversial, but several affiliates, including KGO-TV, have agreed to run it during the hour-long *Ellen* episode. It is also expected to air in several other cities across the country.

KGO will also air a commercial for lesbian-oriented Olivia Cruis-

es that the ABC network also rejected. Station employee Elisa Kessler told the B.A.R. that several gay and lesbian employees are writing a letter to ABC protesting the network's decision to nix the two ads.

"We're disappointed but want to let people know KGO is running the HRC and Olivia ads," Kessler said.

Wagner pointed out that while most Americans oppose job discrimination against gay people, most are not aware that it is still legal in many states. Federal law also does not protect Americans from such discrimination.

Party time

As for the parties, there are sure to be many, so set your VCR and get out to join in the fun. The following lists several public ones taking place in San Francisco and Oakland:

Dubbed the "official" bash, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) party in San Francisco is being sponsored in part by Club Skirts. It takes place from 7 to 10 p.m. at Club Touché, at 300 DeHaro Street in Potrero Hill. Donations are \$10 (\$5 after 10 p.m.), and there will be \$1 "Absolut Ellen" drinks available, as well as a drawing for autographed *Ellen* memorabilia.

If it's bowling and TV you're after, try the "Ultimate Ellen's Coming Out Party and Cyberbowl" event to benefit the San Francisco Bowlers Emergency Aid Relief (BEAR). Watch the show on 20 monitors from 9 to 10 p.m. while you bowl in the "moonlight," then continue until 11:30 with Cyberbowl, Japantown's extraordinary blacklight-laser light show. There will be a raffle, prizes for the best glow-in-the-dark costume, and special cocktails at the bar. The cost is \$10 per person, with 25 percent of the proceeds going to SF BEAR.

Japantown Bowl is located at Post and Webster streets, and validated three-hour parking is available at Japantown Garage across Post Street. For information, call Carol at (415) 864-4467.

The East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club (EBL/GDC) is also hosting an *Ellen* party. Club President Brenda Crawford said anyone is welcome. The party, preceded by the club's quarterly membership meeting and a short video about the Victory Fund, will be held at the Washington Inn, located at 475 10th Street in downtown Oakland, across from the Marriott. The club's meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. followed by the TV show. For more information, call (510) 704-5553. ▼

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SF track team now forming for Gay Games

by Rick Thoman

The San Francisco Track & Field Club will take its first competitive steps towards Gay Games V this Saturday, April 26, as it competes in the Ken Carne meet at Cal State University, Sacramento. Only a trio of club members are slated to compete, but physically and mentally the entire club has begun preparing for the start of competition at Gay Games V next year.

"Amsterdam is going to be full of surprises," claimed SFT&FC coach Frank Demby. "We're going to be competing against a lot of athletes we've never seen before,

primarily Europeans that have not competed in track and field in large numbers at the previous Gay Games."

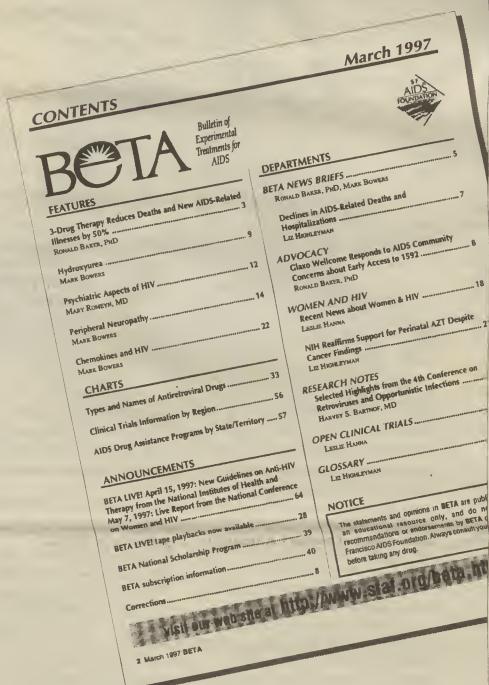
San Francisco is the unofficial defending champion in Gay Games track and field, having taken New York by storm in 1994 and collected over 100 medals, most of them gold. As the team to beat, some SFT&FC athletes never stopped training since the last Gay Games, but more and more team members are joining the weekly workouts as San Francisco begins to gear up, hoping to repeat their success at the Games in 1998.

In addition to being the first Gay Games held off the North American continent, there will be a myriad of other changes to contend with. The track and field competition in Amsterdam will be contested under European rules (IAAF), which does not recognize the 30-39-year-old sub-

page 26 ▶

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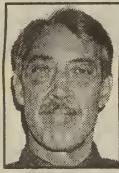
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Susan Leal to run for SF treasurer post

by Cynthia Laird

Susan Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal announced Thursday, April 17 that she'll run for city treasurer this November. The seat is currently held by Mary Callanan, who will retire after serving as the city's treasurer since 1980.

Leal, the only openly Latina lesbian on the board, said she has a lot of background in finance, needed to manage the city's \$3 billion portfolio. She said that the position matches many of her skills.

The filing deadline is not until August; so far, no one else has taken out papers for the treasurer's seat.

Leal was appointed to the board of supervisors in 1993 and elected in 1994 with more than 100,000 votes. Her current term on the board runs through 1998. She is currently chair of the board's finance committee. In that role, she recently negotiated key provisions to protect the public in the 49ers' stadium proposal: the 49ers organization will take the bulk of the financial risk, the team will remain in San Francisco for the next 30 years, and new jobs will be given to local residents.

Leal told the B.A.R. that there are many changes that have taken place in the tax collector's office, which reports to the treasurer, and that she envisions more positive changes if elected.

"The current treasurer has done a good job, and a lot of changes the tax collector is doing can improve the office," Leal said. "I'll continue to make it more efficient and continue to make it more customer friendly."

Multibillion-dollar portfolio

In addition to overseeing the tax collector, the city treasurer is responsible for managing San Francisco's \$3 billion investment portfolio. Leal said that if elected treasurer, she will look at where the city is currently investing its money.

"Managing the public's money well is an essential obligation of government," said Leal. "With nearly 20 years of experience in finance and budgeting in both public and private sectors, I believe I have the background to manage San Francisco's treasury wisely and efficiently."



Gregory H. Fischer

Susan Leal: "I believe I have the background to manage San Francisco's treasury wisely and efficiently."

nance and budgeting in both public and private sectors, I believe I have the background to manage San Francisco's treasury wisely and efficiently."

Last year, Leal was the only supervisor to vote against the costly City Charter proposal on the November ballot, which was subsequently also rejected by voters. She also pushed the mayor and board to renegotiate the Muni drivers' contract, gaining cost-saving concessions.

So far, Leal has received the support of many of her fellow supervisors, including board president Barbara Kaufman, and members Tom Ammiano, Sue Bierman, Amos Brown, Leslie Katz, Mabel Teng, and Michael Yaki. She has also received the support of Mayor Willie Brown, Assemblywoman Carole Migden,

Sheriff Mike Hennessey, public defender Jeff Brown, City Attorney Louise Renne, and former supervisor Tom Hsieh.

Before her appointment to the Board of Supervisors four years ago, Leal had served for seven years as vice president of Health-Care COMPARE Corp., a national health care cost management firm.

Leal also served as counsel to a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee investigating health care issues; and as senior consultant to the California Assembly Ways and Means Committee, where she drafted the state's health budget.

Leal earned her J.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1975, and her undergraduate degree in economics from the university in 1971. ▼

Ammiano at press conference

'Honest Elections' laws: vetoed in SF, but adopted statewide

by Cynthia Laird

Mayor Willie Brown may have vetoed his "Honest Elections" ordinance last year, but Supervisor Tom Ammiano triumphantly announced Friday, April 18 that most of its proposed provisions have now become state law. At a Monday press conference, Ammiano reviewed that announcement, based upon a new advice letter he received from the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

"Politics as usual in San Fran-

cisco just became a crime," Ammiano said.

"The FPPC advises, based on the voter-approved Proposition 208, that lobbyists cannot be hired by candidates or officeholders to do fundraising; to serve as campaign managers who arrange for credit for such vendor services as printing, office rent, slate mailers, advertisements, or any other service; nor can these consultant-lobbyists provide a financial gift to officeholders by canceling unpaid fees after the election," said Ammiano.

Ammiano said that in many respects, state law is now stronger than his original proposal, and that the practical effect of the FPPC's advice letter is to enact "even tougher strictures on lobbyists-consultants" than he sought in last year's "Honest Elections" ordinance.

Under Ammiano's proposal, lobbyist-consultants were forbidden from lobbying for pay officeholders who owed them money for one year or until the debt was paid, whichever was less. Under the FPPC's advice letter, there is an absolute and permanent ban

next page ▶

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay Assistant DA goes for the bench

Chuck Haines to run for judge

by Dennis Conkin

A gay former hate crimes prosecutor who has spent most of his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the San Francisco District Attorney's office will run for election in 1998 as a Superior Court judge.

Charles (Chuck) F. Haines is currently managing attorney for felony cases at the District Attorney's office, a post he has held since 1996. A 16-year veteran of the DA's office, Haines graduated in 1977 from Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 1995, Haines was the first openly gay person to be appointed to the State Bar's Minimum Continuing Legal Education Committee, which oversees education requirements for California's 120,000 lawyers.

"There are many reasons why I am running for the Superior Court," Haines, 47, said in a statement.

"The present governor and his predecessor have refused to appoint even one member of the gay/lesbian community to the bench anywhere in California."

A harmful effect of such "a quota system" in the judicial appointments of Gov. Pete Wilson and former Gov. George Deukmejian is the absence of a gay and lesbian perspective on criminal justice and constitutional matters including hate crimes, domestic

violence, and civil rights issues, according to Haines.

"Nothing could be more inconsistent with our ideals of democracy," he said.

In practice and theory

"I have had 16 years' experience working daily in the courts of this city," Haines said. "I've seen the administration of justice in practice, not just in theory. I know how the system works. I know its weaknesses, and I think I have ideas for improvement."

Prior to his current post, Haines served four years as head of the DA's hate crimes unit and member of the sexual assault unit, which prosecuted adult and child sexual assault cases.

In a celebrated 1995 case, he secured the conviction of Gregory Grottemeyer, a defendant under California's one-strike sexual assault laws, who burglarized a woman's apartment at night and raped her. Conviction under the criminal sex assault statute requires a mandatory 25-year sentence in state prison. It was the first San Francisco prosecution under the law enacted in 1995.

Also in 1995, Haines argued successfully in a friend of the court argument before the California State Supreme Court against a juvenile female's bid to have her gay-bashing conviction overturned on the grounds that hate crimes laws were unconstitutional.

The case concerned the girl's



Assistant DA Chuck Haines

Then-District Attorney Joe Freitas was booted out of office after what Haines circumspectly called "unfortunate trial results" and his successor Arlo Smith "promptly opened up the District Attorney's office to openly gay and lesbian staffers," including prosecutors and investigators.

Although perhaps best known as a criminal prosecutor, Haines is also active in lesbian and gay community endeavors and has served as president of the board of directors of the organization which manages the Coming Home Hospice and Endowment Fund.

The fund was set up to help Coming Home Hospice, a Diamond Street facility that provides care to terminally ill lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community members.

The organization also oversees Coming Home Support Services, which provides financial assistance and case management to the elderly and people with AIDS.

Haines has not yet decided which Superior Court seat he will seek. ▼

participation in a vicious beating of two gay men by a trio of anti-gay skinheads in front of Orphan Andy's, a popular Castro area diner. Both victims later died of AIDS.

Inspired by Milk

Haines said that while he "never thought of himself as a lawman," a key factor in his decision to become a public prosecutor, rather than remain in private practice, was the 1979 assassination of San Francisco gay leader Harvey Milk.

Milk's killer Dan White was convicted of manslaughter rather than first-degree murder by a San Francisco jury.

their campaign committees.

• Officeholders or candidates may not accept any contributions arranged by a lobbyist.

• Officeholders or candidates may not contract with a lobbyist to arrange extensions of credit for any period more than 30 days, for campaign activities including printing, rent, and professional services.

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• Officeholders or candidates may not accept a reduction in price from a lobbyist who also provides goods or services for non-lobbying purposes. An example might be a lobbyist who provides a below market loan or discount on printing or use of office space. ▼

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Ammiano

◀ previous page

on officeholders or candidates hiring lobbyists to perform the bulk of duties normally performed by campaign managers.

"You can't fool the voters when it comes to recognizing influence peddling, and that any pay-off for the insider politics between officeholders and lobbyists comes right out of the taxpayers' pockets."

Close the last gap

Ammiano said he plans to move forward with an amended version of his "Honest Elections" ordinance that is now pending before the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee.

"This will close the last gap remaining and bring into even

stronger effect all of the 'clean government' reforms included in the 'Honest Elections' ordinance," Ammiano said.

He said the FPPC's letter now clears the way for passage of the amended ordinance by the board of supervisors and the mayor.

"This also addresses the mayor's objection. When he vetoed my legislation last year, Mayor Brown said that he believed that the responsibility for resolving such conflicts belonged with the officeholder or candidate, and under this state law, it is the officeholder or candidate — not the lobbyist — who faces [a] possible prison term or fine."

Specific points covered in the FPPC's advice letter include:

• Officeholders or candidates may not contract with San Francisco lobbyists to raise funds for

their campaign committees.

• Officeholders or candidates may not accept any contributions arranged by a lobbyist.

• Officeholders or candidates may not contract with a lobbyist to arrange extensions of credit for any period more than 30 days, for campaign activities including printing, rent, and professional services.

• Officeholders or candidates may not accept a debt reduction for professional services during a campaign from a lobbyist.

• Officeholders or candidates may not accept a reduction in price from a lobbyist who also provides goods or services for non-lobbying purposes. An example might be a lobbyist who provides a below market loan or discount on printing or use of office space. ▼

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Leslie bathhouse bill killed in committee

by Liz Highleyman

After undergoing a series of amendments, a weakened Senate Bill 1301 – better known as the "Nuisance Bill" – was defeated in the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 22 by a close 3-4 vote.

The committee, chaired by John Burton (D-San Francisco), discussed the bill late into the evening Tuesday. Voting in favor of the bill were the measure's sponsor, Judicial Committee chair Tim Leslie (R-Tahoe City), Raymond Haynes (R-Riverside), Jack O'Connell (D-Santa Barbara), and Cathie Wright (R-Simi Valley). Voting against the bill were Burton, Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), and Byron Sher (D-Stanford). All opposing votes came from Bay Area representatives. The remaining Judiciary Committee members, Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward) and Charles Calderon (D-Whittier), did not cast votes.

Although the majority favored the measure, five votes are required to move a bill out of the committee. Unless Leslie decides to reintroduce it, S-B 1301 is now effectively dead.

The proposed legislation would regulate all sex clubs and bathhouses in the state. The original bill stated that any building or place which "as a primary activity" permits, accommodates, or encourages patrons to engage in sexual activity – including, but not limited to anal, oral, or vaginal intercourse – or to observe other persons engaging in sexual

sexual activity; that amendment would apparently exempt private parties that are not operated on a commercial basis. Another amendment removed the clause relating to "observing other persons" engaging in sexual conduct.

Also removed was the section of the original bill that prohibited cities and counties from licensing or regulating such establishments.

Since five votes are required to move a bill out of the committee, S-B 1301 is now effectively dead, unless Chair Tim Leslie decides to reintroduce it.

activity, shall be "enjoined, abated, and prevented."

On April 16 the bill was given a second reading, amended by Leslie, and referred back to the Judiciary Committee. One amendment to the bill stipulates that the legislation will apply to establishments that "for monetary consideration" are used to accommodate or encourage patrons to engage in

Finally, a new section was added specifying that the legislation does not apply to "persons who are licensed to perform, or hold a degree in, counseling or therapy to treat sexual dysfunctions who, as part of that counseling or therapy, engage in conduct described" an apparent exemption of professional sex surrogates. ▼

Inspections are underway

Straight sex clubs are being checked, too

by Cynthia Laird

As teams from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Fire Department inspect the city's sex clubs, an AIDS Office staff member has told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that the clubs facing inspection include places where heterosexual people engage in sex.

Tracy Packer of the AIDS Office was responding to a letter from community activist Michael Petrelis, who asked whether the regulations would include clubs where heterosexual sex takes place. Packer emphasized that the defining criterion is "congregate public sex," and that gay clubs that fit that category are not the only ones being inspected.

"There are clubs and parties on our list where heterosexual people have sex," Packer told the *B.A.R.*

Sex clubs are defined as an established venue, and parties are defined as events that roam around and are held at different venues.

'Fair game'

Recently the AIDS Office announced it would be conducting formal inspections to ensure that the "minimum standards for the operation of sex clubs and parties" are being enforced. That announcement has been controversial in the gay community, and many activists have complained about the lack of public input regarding the regulations.

The standards include sex club

operators having staff on site who will monitor patrons to ensure safe sex practices are being followed.

Petrelis specifically asked when inspection teams last checked on heterosexual sex establishments.

Packer said that would have been June or July of last year, before the formal inspections started. However, she said the health and fire department teams have only been to five sex clubs so far, and more visits are expected soon.

"We will be going soon, next week," she said, adding that a heterosexual sex club is on the list of stops.

She also said that these regulations have always been on the books, it's just that prior to the formal inspections, staff were only able to respond to complaints.

In his April 21 letter, Petrelis specifically mentioned several heterosexual sex venues that advertise in a daily newspaper. It is not known whether "congregate public sex" takes place at those particular businesses. Some or all of them could merely have so-called "peep" shows and nude women dancers who may engage in some type of erotic act onstage. However, that is different from "congregate public sex."

Packer did explain that such establishments must have business licenses and fall under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Police Department; sex clubs and parties do not. Police regulations do not allow entertainment and sex at the same place, nor do they allow alcohol and sex at the same place, Packer explained.

Staff from the mayor's office have been going on the daytime inspections with health and fire department personnel. Bevin Duffy, with the mayor's office, said he thinks all sex clubs are "fair game" for the DPH regulations.

Packer also said it is not the responsibility of the inspection teams to actually monitor patrons, which is why the visits are being made during daytime hours right now. Fire safety is being checked, such as exits being free and clear, adequate fire extinguishers being on site, and exits being clearly marked. The teams are also checking with sex club operators to make sure they have plans for monitoring patrons.

No stings planned

Eventually, Packer said, the health department will have trained personnel who will make unannounced visits to the sex clubs when they are open.

Once the unannounced visits start, Packer was asked whether the undercover staff would attempt to engage in any "sting" operations or attempt to have unsafe sex at the clubs.

"Absolutely not," Packer replied. "They will look to see if [sex club] staff are monitoring patrons."

She acknowledged that it will be "almost impossible" to check out everything that goes on in the sex clubs. And it will be some time before they begin the unannounced visits.

"That's way down the line," she said. ▼

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AIDS Office study to target transgenders

Landmark effort to gather variety of data

by Cynthia Laird

The Department of Public Health's (DPH) AIDS Office will be undertaking a landmark study to gather information on the prevalence and risk behavior of the city's transgender community, it was announced at the Thursday, April 10 meeting of the HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC).

Kristen Clements of the AIDS Office and transgender activist Kiki Whitlock presented an overview of the study to the council. The Transgender Community Health Project (TCHP), as it is called, will collect data on as many as 400 self-identifying transgender people: 200 female-to-male and 200 male-to-female individuals.

Recruitment and interviewing for the study is expected to start in June and continue through November. A final report is expected next spring.

The TCHP is the culmination of work between the transgender community and AIDS Office staff that goes back several years.

Whitlock, a former HPPC member and the first openly transgender person on the council, recounted that in August 1994, the HPPC directed that a preliminary transgender focus group be conducted because there was so little information about the population.

"This focus group was the very first step towards gathering data for the transgender community," Whitlock said.

Later efforts by a HPPC sub-committee that included female-to-male transgender member Patrick Forte resulted in top priority given to a risk behavior and seroprevalence study of San Francisco's transgender community, she added.

Last year, the AIDS Office conducted 11 focus groups that were convened at sites where many



AIDS Office's Kristen Clements

transgender persons go for services. Clements then analyzed the data and identified unmet needs in the transgender community, Whitlock said. Earlier this year, Clements began developing the interview survey and other aspects of the study.

"In February 1997, a community advisory board of transgender community members convened for the first time with AIDS Office TCHP staff to gather input and support from the transgender community," Whitlock said.

That community advisory board has worked closely with the AIDS Office in development of the study.

"The main purpose is to gather quantitative information," Clements told the council. "To date, there has been very little data on this population, and there's never been a study including female-to-male people."

Data would include estimating the prevalence of HIV and Hepatitis B, as well as estimating the prevalence of HIV risk behaviors and assessing whether HIV seroprevalence rates and HIV risk factors differ among sub-populations within the transgender community. The study also hopes to determine the association of specific HIV risk behaviors with the prevalence of HIV.

Clements pointed to preliminary information from the focus groups that indicates many in the transgender community have had



Kiki Whitlock: "This focus group was the very first step toward gathering data for the transgender community."

Cynthia Laird

negative experiences when accessing HIV prevention services, and this is also something the study will focus on. More sensitivity training might need to be done at various agencies, she suggested.

Whitlock said some people in the transgender community have already heard of the upcoming study through word of mouth. People for the study will be recruited from several agencies that have services for transgender individuals. Additionally, some bars and genders have experience in transgender community outreach, HIV counseling, and community organizing, Whitlock added.

The study will consist of a face-to-face interview followed by HIV and Hepatitis B counseling and testing sessions. The information will be used to measure several things, including:

- Sociodemographics;
- Medical history and health status;
- HIV prevention service access;
- Sexual behaviors;
- Drug use behaviors;
- Psychosocial factors that may be associated with HIV risk, such as self-esteem, depression, and social support;

- HIV prevalence; and
- Hepatitis B prevalence

Clements said that five people from the transgender community will be hired by the AIDS Office to conduct the recruitment, interviews, testing, counseling, and referrals. These individuals are expected to represent different races and genders and have experience in transgender community outreach, HIV counseling, and community organizing, Whitlock added.

The sites for the interviews will also be rotated among several agencies in the city. By having the interviews at these agencies, Clements said it will help link people to the various services, which is also one of the study's goals.

Each person participating in the study will receive a \$40 incentive for completing the interview and a testing, counseling, and referral session. Additionally, Clements explained people can receive up to \$25 in "snowball incentives" if they refer five eligible people to the study. ▼

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New structure for Mayor's HIV planning council announced

Committees will allow greater public input

by Cynthia Laird

The Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council has a new structure and several new committees as a result of a 14-1 vote at the Monday, April 14 meeting.

The council prioritizes the city's share of federal Ryan White CARE funds that help provide HIV/AIDS services to city residents who are uninsured or do not have adequate medical coverage. A variety of agencies that provide such services as medical, housing, dental, food, and others are funded in part with CARE dollars.

The city received \$37.3 million in CARE funds for the 1997-98 cycle, it was announced last month. That figure was about \$2 million more than Department of Public Health AIDS Office officials expected, so there are no service cuts planned.

The council must begin its prioritization process earlier this year, as the deadline for CARE applications has moved up to October. Much of the work is expected to take place this summer.

This latest restructuring of the council is the result of several months of discussion about how the council can operate more efficiently, as well as receive more public input. A council retreat in

February served as the catalyst for the just-approved changes.

The council will still have full meetings, but they will be held monthly, instead of twice a month. The other meeting will be a "hybrid" meeting; part of it will be the full council, which will then break into small groups for the second portion of the meeting.

The idea of small groups grew out of last year's prioritization process, and was also discussed at the February 22 retreat. Several council members expressed frustration at not having time to talk about various issues thoroughly; the small groups should provide a forum for those discussions.

Public input wanted

All gatherings, whether small groups, committees, or the full council, are open to the public. At the committee meetings, the council will be allowing members of the public to interact during the entire meeting. Currently, public comment is only accepted at the beginning of the council meeting, and people cannot address the council at other points on the agenda.

"The idea behind this is that committee meetings are open to the public, and any member of the public can fully participate in committee meetings," said council co-chair Norm Nickens.

In fact, one of the new groups is the Community Input Committee. The group's goal is to reach out to a larger community than is usually present at council meetings.

"The key point to me is that the work is going to be done at the committee level," said council member Will Carter. "If these committees work right, we should get more work done."

Another new group is the Prioritization Committee. This body will guide and coordinate the prioritization process. This year's effort will be the first time a specific committee will work to ensure that adequate information is provided to the council by AIDS Office staff, and in a timely manner so the council can analyze the information before reaching decisions.

The other committees are:

- Planning - to address long-term issues facing the council, and revision of the five-year plan;

- Evaluation and Assessment - to assess efficiency of grantees, examine the effect of services on the community, and investigate the effect of council decisions on the community;

- Membership - to recruit new members, address membership issues such as attendance regulations; and

- Steering - to ensure the coordination of other committees, and



Cynthia Laird

Will Carter: "If these committees work right, we should get more work done."

oversee the agenda. (This committee includes chairs from all other committees, the council co-chairs, and AIDS Office representatives.)

In addition to the standing committees, the council still has the housing task force (formerly the ad hoc housing committee). That group will also continue to hold regular public meetings. And the people with AIDS (PWA) caucus is now a subcommittee of the council.

Following are the initial committee meeting schedules. All meetings are at the AIDS Office, 25 Van Ness Avenue.

- Planning - Thursday, May 1 from 4 to 6 p.m., fifth floor conference room.

ference room.

- Prioritization - Monday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., fifth floor training room A.

- Evaluation - Tuesday, May 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., fifth floor conference room.

- Membership - Wednesday, May 7 from 4 to 6 p.m., fifth floor conference room.

- Community Input - Thursday, May 8 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., fifth floor training room A. ▼

For more information about the planning council's schedule, call the AIDS Office at 554-9000.

Community Service Announcement:

On May 1st there will be a one day strike at Visiting Nurses and Hospice

To our patients, their families and friends from the employees of Visiting Nurses and Hospice

THERE IS A CRISIS AT VNH

Every day, VNH nurses, social workers, and home health care workers care for San Francisco's homebound patients — people with AIDS, the frail and elderly, the chronically and terminally ill. As health care workers, we care very deeply about our patients and about this community.

Now, Sutter Health, a \$2.5 billion corporation, has taken over California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), the parent company of VNH. Since the take-over we have seen: a decline in patient care time, threatened loss of federal funding, and a closed-door policy allowing no employee input.

WORKERS AND THE COMMUNITY FIGHT FOR VNH

In November 1996 the majority of VNH employees voted to join the Service Employees Union, Locals 250 and 790. The San

Francisco community has joined us in our fight for quality health care and workers rights. We stand together to ensure that VNH is a productive provider of quality care in our community.

SUTTER HEALTH AND CPMC SHOW NO RESPECT

Instead of recognizing our union and working with the community for better health care, Sutter spends precious health care dollars to block our organizing efforts. Sutter uses surveillance, intimidation, and harassment in direct violation of federal labor laws!



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On May 1 the patients and community will come first

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If you are a VNH patient and have urgent care needs on May 1 call VNH United! at 415/284-7530.

VNH volunteers will be standing by ready to assist you.

We care about our patients at all times!

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

When: Thursday, May 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

What: Education and Outreach on HIV/AIDS + Health Screening

Who: Striking VNH workers will provide care & information

Where: Boedeker Park, the Tenderloin

Poll: Americans less worried about AIDS

Many scientists worry about implications

United Press International

According to a new poll released Sunday, April 20, Americans are less worried about AIDS and are more confident a vaccine for the disease will be found in the next five years.

The Harris poll says only slightly more than one in ten Americans are "very concerned" they will get AIDS, and nearly two-thirds believe "in five years we will be well on the way to defeating the AIDS epidemic."

When the poll was last conducted in 1991, nearly two in ten people were very concerned about catching the virus. Two-thirds of the nation also thought AIDS was or would become an epidemic. Just half the country feels that way now.

The survey of more than 1,000 people interviewed in late February also finds Americans hopeful of finding a vaccine to prevent HIV infection. Slightly more than half say that discovery will come within five years. The country is less optimistic about people who already have the disease. Nearly six in ten say there will not be a cure in the next five years.

Experts worry the findings mean people are letting up in the quest to stop the virus.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, of the Harvard School of Public Health, says "we must resist the temptation to forget or deny the terrible realities of a global epidemic."

He says, "Wonderful scientific progress may be giving the illusion of victory against the AIDS pandemic, yet this is only a step towards control of AIDS." ▼

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SF has fourth highest AIDS rate in U.S.

by Mike Santangelo,
UPI Science News

Researchers say that New York City tops a new list of 50 U.S. metropolitan areas with the highest AIDS rates.

The New York City rate in 1996, of 120.1 AIDS cases per 100,000 population, is far ahead of number two Miami, with a rate of 99.4 per 100,000. The rankings were published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in Atlanta Thursday, April 17.

Jersey City, New Jersey (with 97.7 per 100,000) and San Francisco (with 95.0) placed third and fourth. Providence, R.I. and Portland, Ore. tied for last with a rate of 18.5 AIDS cases per 100,000.

Oakland, with 28.5 cases per 100,000, was the only other Bay Area community to make the list. It came in at number 27.

In February, the CDC reported that the number of deaths from AIDS declined 12 percent during the first half of 1996 when compared to the same period in 1995. That represented the first decline in the history of the epidemic, which began in 1980. The CDC listed 50,000 AIDS deaths in 1995 and 22,000 deaths during the first six months of 1996. ▼

Metropolitan areas with the highest annual AIDS rates per 100,000 population, as released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. New York, N.Y. | 120.1 | 26. Las Vegas, Nev. | 28.9 |
| 2. Miami, Fla. | 99.4 | 27. Oakland, Ca. | 28.5 |
| 3. Jersey City, N.J. | 97.7 | 27. Norfolk, Va. | 28.5 |
| 4. San Francisco, Ca. | 95.0 | 28. Memphis, Tenn. | 27.3 |
| 5. West Palm Beach, Fla. | 85.4 | 29. Austin, Tex. | 26.9 |
| 6. Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. | 83.6 | 30. Richmond, Va. | 26.6 |
| 7. Newark, N.J. | 73.9 | 31. Rochester, N.Y. | 26.5 |
| 8. San Juan, P.R. | 70.4 | 32. Middlesex, N.J. | 26.1 |
| 9. Baltimore, Md. | 61.6 | 32. Seattle, Wa. | 26.1 |
| 10. Baton Rouge, La. | 58.5 | 33. San Antonio, Tex. | 25.7 |
| 11. New Orleans, La. | 58.2 | 34. Richmond, Va. | 26.6 |
| 12. Washington, DC | 47.3 | 35. Nassau-Suffolk, N.Y. | 24.3 |
| 13. Atlanta, Ga. | 46.4 | 36. Nashville, Tenn. | 24.1 |
| 14. Houston, Tex. | 45.3 | 37. Chicago, Ill. | 23.8 |
| 15. Wilmington, Del. | 43.4 | 38. Louisville, Ky. | 23.4 |
| 16. Los Angeles, Ca. | 40.7 | 39. Birmingham, Ala. | 22.7 |
| 17. New Haven, Conn. | 37.3 | 39. Monmouth-Ocean, N.J. | 22.7 |
| 18. Orlando, Fla. | 37.2 | 40. Riverside-San Bernardino, Ca. | 21.7 |
| 19. San Diego, Ca. | 37.1 | 41. Denver, Colo. | 20.9 |
| 20. Jacksonville, Fla. | 36.5 | 42. Sarasota, Fla. | 20.9 |
| 21. Bergen-Passaic, N.J. | 36.1 | 43. Albany-Schenectady, N.Y. | 20.7 |
| 22. Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla. | 36.1 | 43. Tucson, Ariz. | 20.4 |
| 23. Hartford, Conn. | 34.1 | 44. Boston, Mass. | 19.0 |
| 24. Philadelphia, Pa. | 33.9 | 45. St. Louis, Mo. | 18.8 |
| 25. Springfield, Mass. | 33.5 | 46. Portland, Ore. | 18.5 |
| 25. Dallas, Tex. | 29.3 | 46. Providence, R.I. | 18.5 |

Weird news from the wire

United Press International

Nearly a dozen animal activists handcuffed themselves to a building on New York University's Manhattan campus Monday, April 21 to protest the construction of a new animal research laboratory. Protesters demanded a U.S.D.A. investigation into the experiments allegedly scheduled to be conducted on animals in the new lab on top of the Main Building in Washington Square.

A spokesman for the university calls the protesters anti-science and says they are trying to stand in the way of research that might help find a cure to cancer or AIDS. He says that after the lab is done with an animal, NYU does everything it can to place it in a sanctuary, but adds it is impossible to just turn them loose. He says protesters would like to see chimpanzees sitting on street corners in front of drugstores.

The action at NYU culminated a week of events sponsored by animal rights activists, including a drag appearance by Mistress Formika as a *fauve* fashion magistrate Anna Wintour at a New York City dance club.

Speaking of animal abuse...

Jury selection is scheduled to begin this week for a rural Weyauwega, Wisconsin man accused of sexually assaulting a horse. Sterling Rachwal, 33, is charged with burglary, mistreatment of an animal, criminal damage to property, and bail jumping. Authorities say the man has a history of crimi-

nal convictions for mistreating horses dating back 15 years.

The trial for Rachwal has been moved to Oconto County because of pre-trial publicity and safety concerns.

Who says there's nothing on?

An equipment failure at T-CI cable television's Broward County (Florida) headquarters last Friday, April 18 sent random programming galloping through the channels. The result was pornography — soft and hard — turning up in the most unlikely places like home shopping channels and cartoon shows.

It caught viewers by surprise and upset many of them. Many callers were concerned that children would be exposed to sex. The problem lasted for about an hour.

Gay man's ashes go into orbit

Although overshadowed by fellow travelers Timothy Leary and Gene Roddenberry, some of the cremated remains that went into orbit Monday, April 21 were those of a gay Pennsylvania pilot. Lieutenant Colonel Charles William Slack III, who died in 1995 of AIDS, had wanted to be buried with his lover in a military cemetery in an extinct Hawaiian volcano, but Slack did not have enough time in the military to qualify. His family purchased space on a Spanish rocket that also carried the ashes of *Star Trek* creator Roddenberry and former LSD guru Leary, because, as Slack's sister Robin Tennet put it, her brother "belongs out in the heavens." ▼

An insider's view of gene therapy

by Jeff Gustavson, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Gene Therapy" is a term used far more often than it is understood – especially in the context of treating HIV. Many people with HIV are particularly excited about using gene therapy in hopes of either "kick-starting" the immune system, or interrupting the life cycle of the virus. Because I shared this excitement, I entered a gene-therapy trial in 1994, and though I'm not sure it did much to help me fight HIV, in the process I learned a lot about gene therapy strategies for fighting HIV – and also about the pitfalls of enrolling in clinical trials promoted by for-profit medical practices.

In March of 1994, my T-cell count, with a previous low of 274 in 1991 and high of 672 in December of 1993, had again begun to fall. When I next visited my physician's assistant, there was a note from the research department associated with my private, for-profit, medical group, saying I had been identified as a possible subject in the first gene therapy trial for HIV. This came at the right time for me psychologically, as I feared I was beginning a downward spiral from ARC, to AIDS, to death. So, after discussing the idea with everyone from my doctor to my immunology professor, I jumped at the chance to participate in this new research.

What is gene therapy?

In general, gene therapy aims to either replace a defective or missing gene, or to generate some kind of therapeutic effect by altering a particular group of cells' DNA – the genetic sequences which code for proteins. Successful gene therapy has been done on people with Cystic Fibrosis (a lung disease), to replace the defective gene that causes the disease. Analogous to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee to the NIH (RAC) has ultimate authority in the U.S. over trials involving genetic manipulation and human subjects. There have now been over 150 different gene-therapy protocols approved by the RAC.

There are several different mechanisms proposed to fight HIV with gene therapy: Gem-91, antisense, Rev-M10, etc. In some of these trials, researchers attempt to introduce an artificial gene into human cells that will cause the cells to make a chemical that will then block HIV replication. The trial in which I participated was a bit different and was an attempt to prime my own immune system's cells to attack HIV-infected cells by getting some of my cells to present HIV surface proteins.

How does gene therapy work?

Gene therapy generally involves inserting a new gene into a human cell along with "promoter" regions of DNA that turn the gene on. Often, that gene is inserted using an artificially created or altered virus, which is constructed by genetic engineers to carry with it the desired gene. All viruses, when they infect cells, integrate their genome (either their DNA, or, in the case of retroviruses, a DNA copy of their RNA) into the host cell's genome. A virus is picked that will infect the desired cells but will not cause disease.

In the trial I was in, Viagene's HIV Immunotherapeutic vaccine (HIV-ITV), two of the nine HIV genes (env and rev) were put into a mouse virus which was then injected into study subjects (like me) once a month for three months. Because only two HIV genes were used, researchers and the RAC believed that the therapy would not infect new cells with HIV. The hope of this particular therapy was to elicit a specific cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) response against HIV from my CD8 cells, and these same primed cells or their descendants would go on and kill other cells infected with HIV.

What is the CTL response?

CD8+ T cells, when they receive the proper signals, turn into killers of virally infected or cancer cells. The first of these signals, often called signal 1, happens when a CD8 cell "sees" a protein fragment (called a peptide) on the surface of the target cell presented by the target cell in association with Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) Class I. This MHC molecule is found on virtually all cells (the notable exceptions are red blood cells and brain cells), and is used by all healthy cells to present interior proteins on their surface so that the immune system can recognize and destroy virally infected or cancerous cells. Signal 2 for the CD8 cell is the cytokine IL-2 and other signals, which are received from a nearby helper (CD4+) T cell. When CD8 cells are first created, they are programmed to recognize just one particular peptide.

How does MHC I presentation work?

MHC-I's job is to be an exhibitionist: it says to all the CD8+ T cells passing by, "Look what I've got hangin' here." The CD8 cells all come by for a feel, and see if what MHC-I has fits their receptor. If it does, the CD8 molecule binds tightly to MHC-I, and this completes signal 1 for the CD8 to kill this cell. Before killing the cell, however, the CD8+ cells seek approval from their cousins, the CD4+ helper-T cells, in the form of the cytokine IL-2. This and a co-stimulatory signal facilitated by another cluster of differentiation (CD) molecule, CD28, which presses against B7 on the target cell, make up signal 2. When both signals are received, the CD8+ cell kills the target cell.

In order to facilitate recognition by CD8 killer cells, healthy cells are continually chopping up some fraction of any protein found inside the cell into peptide fragments for surface presentation. These fragments are then escorted to the inside of the cell's rough endoplasmic reticulum (ER) by TAP (Transporter of Antigen Presentation) proteins. Once there, the peptides "stick" by hydrogen bonds to the alpha chain of the MHC I molecule. Finally, the last piece of MHC-I, called Beta2 Microglobulin, joins the alpha chain, and it can now move to the cell surface and do its job of alerting passing CD8 cells to the presence of any foreign proteins within the cell.

How do CTLs kill their targets?

In a process known as exocytosis, CD8 CTLs push neatly packaged bags of toxic chemicals onto their target cell's surface membrane. The first bags of toxic chemicals contain perforin – a protein that pokes holes in (perforates) the target cell's membrane. After that, bags of granzymes are pushed through by CTLs, and these break down the target cell's structure, and the target cell dies.

Hope and hype

The hope, then, was that after my cells' genome had been transfected with the genetically reengineered mouse virus, my cells would then produce gp160 (the env gene product) as well as the proteins coded for by rev. This would then be chopped by the proteasome, stuck on MHC-I, and turn CD8+ into CTLs that would then go on and kill any cell of mine that was infected with HIV. The hype for this treatment, generated by the drug's developer, was high. CBS's *48 Hours* did a show on it. And I was a believer.

Success is in the mind of the researcher

So, did env and rev get into my cells and get chopped up, presented, and turn on CTLs? No, and yes. After getting my three shots over three months, giving 12 tubes of blood and urine and semen samples each month for the first three months, then every three months for a year, the study was unblinded, and, you guessed

it, I was on placebo. But, by CD4+ count, I did the best of the more than 40 participants. My CD4s had climbed into the upper 500s. This is most likely because I changed my medicine twice during the trial.

But I was a believer. So, when given the option of receiving the real thing, I chose to go through it all again, as the researchers claimed that they were able to show that they had induced specific CTL activity – it just didn't do any good for the patients. Meanwhile, Viagene was bought out by Chiron, and I hear they are in phase III trials of this vaccine, calling it now by a different name.

About a year ago at a conference, I ran into Flossie Wong-Stahl, a prominent San Diego researcher of gene therapy for HIV infection herself, and asked her why she thought it didn't work. "There ought to be plenty of presentation of viral peptides, already," she said. "So adding more wouldn't do you any good." I wished I had spoken to her two years earlier.

While the gene therapy itself likely didn't hurt me, as part of

agreeing to be in the trial I had to stop all antiretroviral medications for three days prior and three days following each injection. This was in 1994, before David Ho and others had published their work showing that the virus is never really latent and that the virus can develop resistance to drugs very quickly. From what we now know, stopping antiviral therapy for seven days is like asking the virus to become resistant and would be seen as unethical today.

Probably today, if I were considering any trial, I would look before leaping and I would seek advice from someone who had no financial interest in either enrolling people in the trial, as my medical practice did, or in the outcome of the trial, as the researchers and financial backers at Viagene did. I did talk to people three years ago, but just didn't get the right people. If I were considering a trial today, I would talk to knowledgeable activists and scientists not directly associated with promoting that particular trial, who can be located through Project Inform (800-822-7422 or 415-558-9051) or at ACT UP Golden Gate (415-252-9200).

And I still hold great hopes for gene therapy, just not this particular strategy. ▼



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ACTION UPDATE
Do something special this Mother's Day!
Help send HIV+ women and children to L.A.!

HIV-positive women and parents of HIV-positive children attending the National Women & HIV Conference (and coinciding with Pediatric HIV Symposia) May 4-8 in Pasadena, CA need your help with travel, housing, and food. All donors will receive a letter suitable for tax purposes.

For any donations over \$50, we'll send your Mom a card thanking her for raising such a thoughtful child!

Checks should be addressed to:

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

John Dodson
May 26, 1949 – March 5, 1997

Our dear friend John Dodson has gone on to join his beloved Fred. As we say good-bye to John, let us turn and raise a glass of C.C. and 7 in a fond "ta-ta" to the man who meant so much to those who loved him.

John was born in London, Ontario. As a teen-ager, he worked at the Montreal World's Fair, pedaling tourists around on a bicycle rickshaw. He later moved to Vancouver, B.C., and worked there in bank management.

On a trip to California, John fell in love with a city, San Francisco, and a

man, Fred Stone. The lure of this place and, of course, Fred were too much to resist, and he moved south to start yet another new life.

John participated in volunteer community activities. His work and his friends around the Bay Area were his major commitments. He helped those of us who worked with him at Floodesigns get through the little problems, which John called "killing alligators." His compassion and strength got many of us through the tough problems of life that don't punch a time clock.

John's love for and devotion to Fred were boundless, and he was with him all the way. That was John; if he loved you, he was there. We will all miss him – his friends in Vancouver; his wonderful family, including his mother, Ruth; sister, Margo; brother, Bill; and the other siblings we never had the pleasure to meet; and, of course, all of us here.

Taxicab

◀ page 1

cab at 407 Castro Street and asked to be taken to 5th and Howard.

As Sedletsky turned the corner onto 17th Street and pulled over to ask the couple whether they meant 5th Street or 15th Street and Howard, Myland suddenly grew belligerent and agitated, responded "\$15 dollars," and then punched Sedletsky in the face with his closed fist.

According to the narrative report, the two passengers also began fighting between themselves – and at one point in the altercation one of the men grabbed Sedletsky, who lost control of the taxi, which jumped onto the sidewalk and struck a pedestrian.

Sedletsky said in the police report that he remembers nothing except that he began to go unconscious as he was grabbed and lifted from behind during the brawl.

Police arrived at the scene to find Myland and Oliveri still in the altercation with each other – and unwilling to leave the cab – and the pedestrian lying on the street by the taxi.

Myland was maced by police and was forcibly taken from the car while resisting arrest, according to the narrative, but managed to pull free as police were handcuffing him.

Taken to the ground by police, Myland was kicked in the head by Oliveri – who tried to kick him a second time, but was restrained by police.

Citing confidentiality reasons, Harp declined to identify the accident victim, but said he was from Guerneville, California and was taken by Department of Public Health ambulance to San Francisco General Hospital for treatment.

Information about his condition was not available at B.A.R. press time. ▼

Exotic dancers win union contract

by Liz Highleyman

In a precedent-setting event for the erotic entertainment industry, exotic dancers at the Lusty Lady peep show club in North Beach were successful in negotiating a contract that gives them paid sick leave, regular raises, and the right to arbitration of labor disputes.

Unlike most area strip clubs, the dancers at the Lusty Lady – many of whom are lesbian and bisexual women – are paid an hourly wage. Dancers at most other clubs work primarily for tips – often for lap dances – and in many cases are expected to pay "stage fees" and give a substantial portion of their earnings to the club. At the Lusty Lady, dancers work on a stage behind a glass partition and are visible through a window when a customer deposits money. The dancers also succeeded in persuading management to remove one-way mirrors in certain windows; dancers were concerned that customers behind such windows might be carrying cameras or weapons.

Although one strip club in San Diego was unionized before the Lusty Lady, that club operated under an "open shop" policy in which employees were not required to become union members. The San Francisco club is the first to win a closed shop.

The dancers are represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which has recently increased its organizing of non-profits and other industries that have traditionally not been unionized. SEIU organizer Stephanie Batey called the contract "a fantastic victory." ▼

Pot raid

◀ page 1

8:30 a.m., spokesman John Shanley said.

Early morning raid

At about 6:30 a.m. Monday, April 21, federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents stormed the Flower Therapy medical marijuana distribution center at 3180 17th Street, kicking in the doors and leaving copies of the federal search warrant. No one was at Flower Therapy when the raid took place, and no arrests have been made.

Owner Beth Moore said attorneys are in the process of trying to meet with federal prosecutors about the raid.

A spokeswoman in Yamaguchi's office refused to comment on the raid and whether or not the U.S. attorney's office would accept the case for prosecution.

partment of Public Health (DPH) to develop guidelines for medical marijuana distribution since Proposition 215 became law. Nearly all of the pot plants seized by agents were small, of no more than a few inches in height, he added.

He said Flower Therapy was designated as a primary caregiver by city Judge David Garcia, and also said he has personally met with staff, many of whom are HIV-positive.

"I got the impression an element in the DEA [were] taking it on their own after seeing it [Flower Therapy] on TV," Hallinan said.

Better things to do'

Moore was adamant the raid would not adversely affect people who depend on the club for medical marijuana, saying, "We're going to stay open, and we're not going to let the patients suffer again. They hurt the patients."

"We're going to stay open, and we're not going to let the patients suffer again."

—Flower Therapy co-owner Beth Moore

cution. "Our office has no comment," she repeated.

The DEA wasn't talking, either, aside from spokesman Stan Vega's general comments Monday about how agents believed Flower Therapy was a "large-scale marijuana-growing operation," and that the raid was authorized by a federal warrant signed by a federal judge. He added that DEA agents learned of Flower Therapy's operations after a local television news report.

Vega said probable cause was also developed independently. He maintained that Proposition 215 had no role in the department's decision to raid Flower Therapy. He said the San Francisco DEA office has historically had a strategy to investigate what he termed "large-scale" pot-growing operations that violate federal law.

Hallinan sharply disputed whether Flower Therapy fit that description and said his office has taken the lead with the city De-

Moore also said Flower Therapy was just getting to the point where prices could be lowered for the cannabis.

At Monday's Board of Supervisors meeting, member Tom Ammiano called for letters from Hallinan and Lau about what they know about the raid. He was joined by Supervisors Sue Bierman and Amos Brown. Ammiano said the operation looked like a replay of the CBC raid.

Supervisor Susan Leal was critical of the raid. "If the DEA wants to make a difference, there are a couple of parks I can tell them to go hang out where people are selling drugs," she said. "I think they have better things to do."

Todd Swindell, a Flower Therapy staff member, said agents did not appear to touch the club's medical records, nor were any taken. And it seems they didn't confiscate all the pot either.

"They left the baked goods," he said. ▼

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AWG urges increased ADAP funding at AIDS Watch '97

by Bob Roehr

Increased funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) was the cornerstone of testimony, lobbying, and meetings throughout the Washington area during AIDS Watch '97 in mid-April.

The AWG Working Group, a coalition of AIDS organizations and pharmaceutical companies, has identified a "shortfall" of \$66.8 million in funding for ADAP in the current year. AWG says that next year the federal government should increase its share of ADAP funding by \$131.7 million, while states need to kick in an additional \$46.2 million.

AWG co-chair Bill Arnold said that only five state ADAP programs cover all of the basic drugs necessary to treat HIV. Four states still do not pay for any protease inhibitors, while ten have capped the number of participants and have waiting lists. Others restrict access to the program below accepted standards of care.

"We should be ashamed of ourselves," Mary Fisher told Capitol Hill staff members at a Thursday, April 17 briefing. She was as moving and eloquent as when she addressed two Republican national conventions and the American television audience. "Nearly two decades into an epidemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans, we have gathered to discuss how many more should die."

She stated a very simple equation: "What stands between these Americans and death is drugs; what stands between these Americans and drugs is money; and what stands between these Americans and money is ...us, the American people, the United States government, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program."

'Immoral discrepancy'

Fisher noted that the rate of death has gone down for men, because of their access to drugs, while it has continued to rise for

women. "We have no cure, but we have within our power the ability to end the immoral discrepancy between those who live and those who die for lack of access to drugs."

And she called on those assembled "to assure that life-prolonging and death-deferring drugs are available for every HIV-infected person in this nation, not when we stand at death's door, but while we stand in the public square. Politics and science make it possible; economics and morality make it imperative. If we do not embrace the opportunity now, we have consciously and unconsciously prolonged the legacy of shame."

"Chip" Schooley MD, a re-

drugs that misuse can quickly lead to resistance. "We don't want to repeat that" with triple combinations.

He urged increased funding to ease Alabama's "incredibly stringent" Medicaid eligibility criteria and allow a sliding scale of ADAP assistance for working people with inadequate or no health insurance. Alabama's ADAP program has enrolled 728 for its 750 slots and will soon begin to put people on a waiting list.

Georges Benjamin, MD, Deputy Secretary of Health for Maryland, outlined that state's aggressive Maryland ADAP program. When it ran short of money and began a waiting list, the Governor authorized an immediate

"We have no cure, but we have within our power the ability to end the immoral discrepancy between those who live and those who die for lack of access to drugs."

—Mary Fisher

searcher and physician at the University of Colorado, outlined the medicine of new therapies. Over the last two years their patient census has grown by 50 percent, but the number of days in the hospital has declined by 75 percent. He saw these therapies as being highly cost-effective, both in terms of treating patients and in limiting the further spread of HIV.

"By not making drugs available, and by giving people no incentive to find out if they are infected, and by continuing to have people in an infectious state [with a high viral load], we are only shooting ourselves in the foot down the road."

Michael Saag, MD, from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, said physicians have learned from experience with earlier

emergence appropriation that funded coverage for all patients and all HIV approved drugs.

Over the last 12 months, MADAP expenditures have increased 147 percent, which Benjamin called "one of these rare investments that does make a true difference in the lives of individuals. It very clearly shifts the paradigm from treating critical illness to keeping people healthy and productive."

Manhattan Congressman Jerry Nadler said, "We are always told that the United States has the best medical system in the world, but if people do not get the benefits of that technology simply because they don't have the money, then we do not have the best medical system in the world."

"Life and death should not be a question of your pocketbook." ▼



AIDS activist Mary Fisher: "We should be ashamed of ourselves."

Bob Roehr

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Scientists push the 'envelope' of HIV

May hold pharmacological promise

by Lidia Wasowicz,
UPI science writer

Scientists finally have their first high-resolution picture of the protein fragment that enables HIV to invade human cells — a feat with immediate implications for new drug design.

Dr. Peter Kim of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and his team have unveiled the crystal structure of a key fragment of the HIV envelope protein.

Dr. David Chan, a researcher on the team, said, "The envelope protein resides on the surface of the virus and plays a crucial role

in HIV infection."

He said one part of the protein allows the virus to bind to human cells. Another part mediates fusion of the viral membrane and the cell membrane, thus initiating entry of the virus into the cell.

The researchers used X-ray crystallography to determine the core structure of the fusion-mediating part. The striking images reveal a compact, six-helix bundle punctuated by deep cavities.

"Until we saw the images, we didn't know these cavities existed," Kim said. "They could be key targets for the development of new antiviral drugs."

Despite its importance, there are no antiviral drugs that target the envelope protein. That's part-

ly because the virus is so clever at changing the pieces of the protein it presents to the outside world.

Studies do indicate, however, that this cavity structure shown by the Whitehead scientists may not be so amenable to change. Therefore, the researchers say in the journal *Cell*, drugs aimed at this region may be effective against many HIV strains.

Said Kim, "The importance of identifying drugs that block the HIV envelope protein is underscored by the recent success of combination drug regimens for treating AIDS."

"It would be extremely useful to add to this arsenal a drug directed against the membrane-fusion machinery." ▼

Food of the gods

by Jim Provenzano

Food, glorious food. What could be a better inspiration to exercise frequently than the ability to eat more food?

Don't hate me, but I have never had a weight problem, with the slight exception of developing a four-pound tire when I worked as a pastry chef in Pittsburgh.

I can burn off just about anything, so my diet varies from fresh carrot juice to omelets to an entire pizza. And that's just breakfast.

My father, bless his cardiovascularly precarious soul, used to eat chocolate donuts and coffee for breakfast long before John Belushi made the Bruce Jenner parody of "Little Chocolate Donuts. The Breakfast of Champions." No athletic example himself, Dad's idea of exercise consists of walking to the couch to watch a football game.

Fortunately, as adults, we have the choice to overcome our backgrounds and genetics. I was one of the first in my family to be an athlete. My sister led the way through her cheerleading and dancing endeavors.

Way back in the '80s, I ended up despite the abject poverty of a terpsichorean career that prevented proper nutrition. We're talking pretzels for dinner.

The joys of a thirtysomething life, aside from being able to make a real dinner every night, include a thickening of form; I don't mean tires, but the body response to serious, focused exercise. I forgot his name, but one hunky dude I collided with on Black Sands Beach remarked, as I enjoyed his newly muscled, 35-year-old frame, that he'd only really re-engaged with exercise in his mid-thirties.

Something must have stuck as an inspiration, since he was one hot daddy.

One of the tools of the Remake Yourself game is to economize on nutrition so you don't have to eat fourteen chicken sandwiches and twelve pounds of broccoli a day.

Thus the magic elixirs.

Troy Aikman sperm

At first, the barrel-shaped boxes of powders made me break out, sneeze, fart, and generally not process the stuff that it was made for. One of the problems of age is developing intolerance to foods you once loved, such as milk. And that's what makes up the bulk of these bulkifying powders.

The most popular, or best marketed, has queer popularity, through celebrity endorsement, of course. At Costco, it comes in boxes so big you'd expect the stud on the cover to pop out instead of a bunch of packets of what looks



Troy Aikman's protein makes for a creamy shake.

like space food.

I have come to term MetRx "the food of the gods." I like to think of it as powdered Troy Aik-

man sperm. Hey, it's protein, and he is a rather bovine type when you look at him.

This stuff is supposed to make you a happy, healthy supercharged athlete. It is not, however, a substitute for food. I like to think of it as dessert that's good for you.

But what of the daily nutrients of living, and eating?

Well, for one thing, meat is not as easy to digest as all its supposed protein value makes it out to be. Sure, the pros wolfed down big steaks the day of a game, but the evidence now shows they were going about it all wrong. ("No wonder I was so tired," remembers gay former pro footballer Dave Kopay.)

Protein can be found in many ways, and they don't involve meat of the inhuman kind.

The concept of the window of opportunity after a workout is also appealing, but may include misnomers. The actual protein drink, or high protein meal you

consume after working out, won't even begin to be processed until days later. Your chugging little digestive engine does, however, need stuff to transform into strong bones and teeth, and that does not mean Wonder Bread.

A sensible diet also excludes excessive alcohol (I know, pissing off our distributors again). Same goes for ciggies and depleting drugs. If you're still smoking, quit now, please. We'd like you to be around a lot longer, if you don't mind. Besides, the bad stuff just sucks all the good stuff out of the food you spent your hard-earned money on. Why smoke cigarettes when you're just going to have to eat a bunch more food to replenish what it's taking from you?

As to pretending that the pre-packaged milk proteins and sugars in those overpriced sacks are really, once blended into the gelatinous creamy glob of a drink, the ejaculate of a pro quarterback, I say, hey, Mary, whatever pumps your girdle. ▼

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Roberto Friedman
Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/SF

Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact: 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture

The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut, 282-9603.

AIDS Benefits Counselors

Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group

For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Thursdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x2160.

AIDS Community Research Consortium

Conducts AIDS and ARV clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800-864-ACRC.

AIDS Emergency Fund

Provides financial assistance to people with disabilities. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project

Support group for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly works: weeding, clearing, replanting at Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Support Group

2+ years since diagnosis. No charge, fees paid by Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Resource Group. Thursdays, 1pm. Call Gail Winston for intake: 552-7517.

AIDS Treatment Education Network

Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS; holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project

Offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 436-9000.

ARIS

AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meet-

ings. 408-293-ARIS.

Bay Positives

Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Bey + Boy

Actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 431-242X xBOY.

Brothers Network

Support services for the gay, bisexual and transgender American community. 973 Market, Suite #650. Call for groups and schedule: 552-8140.

Buddhist AIDS Project

Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Cannabis Club

Allowed by court order to cultivate marijuana for medicine. Needed: old grow lights, fans, etc. 1444 Market. 621-3986.

Center for Special

Problems

Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group; co-drop-in and psycho educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for 292-1500.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV

Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Coming out support group for women

Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info: Lynne, 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Coming out support group for men

Meets Weds., 6-7:30pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, Ph.D. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence

Begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every Wed., 8pm at 18th St. Services At Place (15th & Market); Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Deaf AIDS Center

At UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voce).

Diabetics

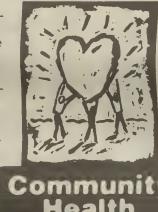
Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dolores Street Comm. Services

Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center

Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka. 648-2215.



Community Health

FABRIC

A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS

Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Gay/ Lesbian Legal Referral Service

Seeks gay-sensitive law students as volunteer law clerks. 3rd year shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3900.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic

Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun., 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Duran Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

G40+ Club

A social group for gay/bl men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project

Free, confidential HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-2, 5-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 567-2273.

Health Support Services

For PWA's and their caregivers. Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis "B" Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Duran Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV Advocacy Network

Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation; phone/fax tree action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV Care

Offers the latest clinical trials from the AmFAR community-based trial network and private industry, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6225.

HIV Negative Support Group

For gay and bisexual men offered by AIDS Health Project; free drop-in, time-limited and ongoing support groups. Info: 476-3902.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group

Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 635-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group

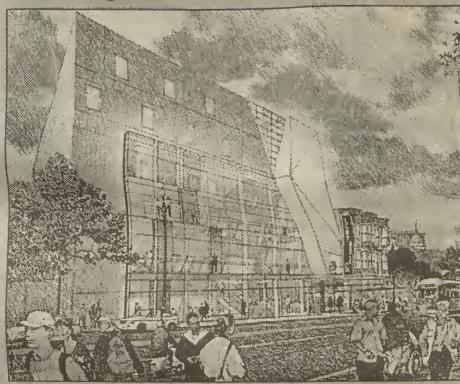
18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each

COMMUNITY NEWS

Design for living



Gregory H. Fleischer

Architects S. Jane Cee and Peter Pfau's design for the new Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center at Market and Octavia sts. turned out to be the winning entry in a very competitive field of 21 submissions. Their plans were selected from the top five choices by a nine-member jury. The center is currently slated to open sometime in 1999.

monthly, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Meditation Sessions

For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford, 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault

Operates sexual assault hotline for men. Mon., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Multiple Loss Bereavement Group

For those experiencing multiple losses of friends or loved ones to AIDS. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x2160.

The Positive Center

Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin CO. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Gay Humanists

Interfaith organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

Protease Inhibitor Support Group

Forming to explore complex issues of new HIV treatment protocols. No fee, weekly, ongoing, pre-registration required. Hospice by the Bay. Info: Mike, 626-5900.

Projecto ContraSIDA Por Vida

Provides peer counseling, legal assistance, workshops, therapy and housing referrals, free. 864-7278.

Psychic Horizons

Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

PWAs Undergoing Infusion

Support group for men, free. Tues. afternoons. Call Carol or Jim at 553-2022.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center

Acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapies, massage for those with HIV, Yoga and Chi Gong classes. Call for schedule. 1748 Market. 861-4964.

Rafiki Services Project

Enhancing quality of life for African American people living with AIDS in SF. 346-5860.

re plen ish

Offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

Women's Cancer Resource Center

Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families & doctors. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, newsletter, educational programs, legal workshop & more. (510) 548-9272 or 548-WCR. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

CA 94122-3112. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 30, 1987.

This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed David Heller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 3, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212774

The following person(s) are doing business as THE EXILES, 1350 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, CA 94115; Michael Patterson, 825 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association. Signed Michael L. Kircher. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 26, 1997.

April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212815

The following person(s) are doing business as OHUNGER DESIGN GROUP, 307 30th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94121; Jacob Ohlinger, 307 30th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94121. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jacob Ohlinger. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 1, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212825

The following person(s) are doing business as BAREMEN & BARE MEDIA, 250 Clinton Park, San Francisco, CA 94103; John W. Bare, 250 Clinton Park, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John W. Bare. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 2, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212819

The following person(s) are doing business as THE BEAUTY NETWORK, 748 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94121-2112; David Heller, 1561 34th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of November 5, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jason R. Christ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 2, 1997.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212827

The following person(s) are doing business as THE EUROPEAN SERVICE, 708 Washington St., Daly City, CA 94015; Todd Wayne Christiansen, 708 Washington St., Daly City, CA 94015. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of January 1, 1997. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed Todd Christiansen. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 28, 1997.

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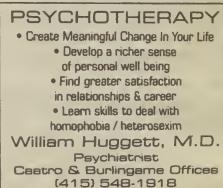
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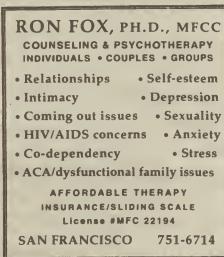


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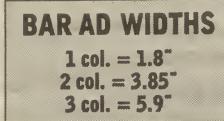
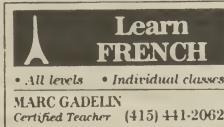
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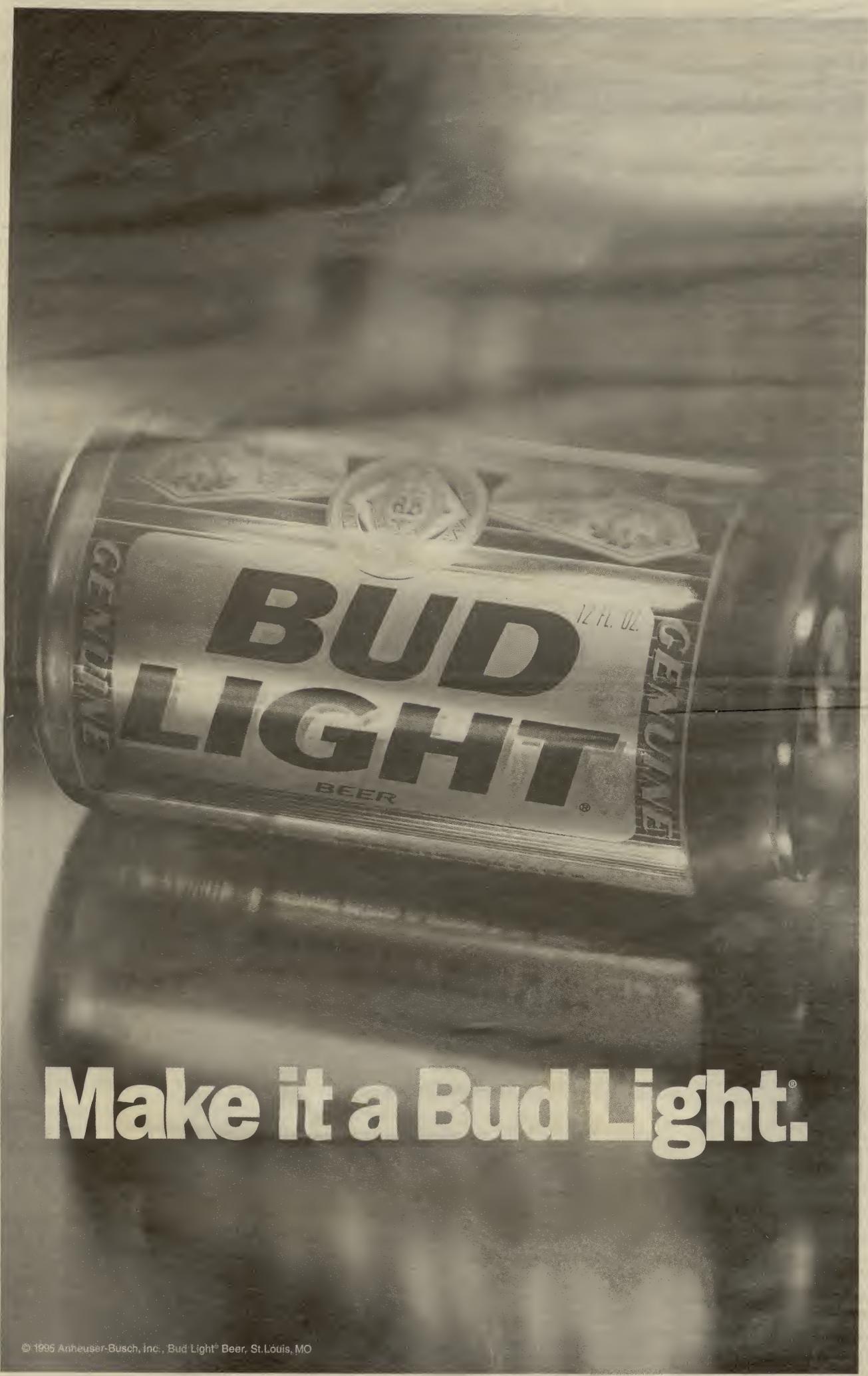
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Daniel Harris on Andrew Sullivan's controversial anthology 'Same-Sex Marriage, Pro and Con: A Reader.'

page 45

Gary Morris reflects on the semiotics of 'girl gang' flicks.

page 37

SF Film Festival turns 40 with 200 films from around the world.

page 38



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 27 • No. 17 • 24 April 1997

BAY AREA REPORTER

Pros of Icons

Major new design show at SFMOMA

by Roberto Friedman

In the Russian Orthodox Church, an icon is a sacred image of a saint or other holy figure. The twelve everyday objects on display in *Icons: Magnets of Meaning* at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art are also religious figures, in a way. But because the religion of contemporary American society is consumerism, the common objects selected here by Curator of Architecture and Design Aaron Betsky are truly icons of consumer culture. It's brave of Betsky and SFMOMA to display a pair of blue jeans and a BMW 325i in the museum. But *Icons* makes a persuasive case for these commercial items, as well as lipstick and surfboards, to be presented in the context of modern art.

Almost 300 design objects, photos and other documents fill the fifth floor gallery, but the exhibit is organized around these twelve iconic objects or images: blue jeans, lipstick, surfboard, baseball bat, BMW, minicams,

stick, surfboard, baseball bat, BMW, minicams, KitchenAid mixer, CBS eye logo, @ [the mark of the cybersphere], the Luxor Hotel, the freeway, and SFMOMA

itself, which has in a short time become a recognizable icon for San Francisco.

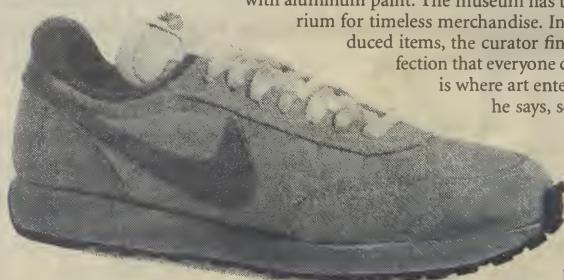
In an age of information overload, suburban and electronic sprawl, Betsky says he was looking for objects that stand still and seemed fixed for all time. "I wound up looking in the closet, in the garage and on the kitchen table," he says. What he found are items which have either become refined to perfection over years of use — basic blue jeans are essentially the same as they were when introduced in the 1890s — or in which good design produced "instant icons" like the Ducati 916 Strada, the ultimate-looking racing motorcycle.

Betsky himself designed the installation, making the fifth floor gallery sparkle with an aluminum diamond-plate floor, minimalist metal displays, and walls glossed over with aluminum paint. The museum has become an emporium for timeless merchandise. In these mass-produced items, the curator finds pieces of perfection that everyone can own. "Design is where art enters everyday life," he says, sounding like the Utopian architects of the Modernist movement.

Take those jeans. Everyone has at least one pair: they cross all class, age, race and gender lines.

page 40 ►

Clockwise: Lipstick by Philosophy; blue jeans by Levi Strauss Company; classic running shoe by Nike; sunglasses by Ray-Ban.



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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

It was only a matter of time before all the superstars who are glomming on to the April 30 *Ellen* supernova began using the press to reassure frightened fans that they're heterosexual. In the April 25 *Entertainment Weekly*, an interview with **Laura Dern**, the actress who portrays Ellen's love interest on the coming-out episode, begins with an unctuously worded description of a smoochfest between Dern and **Jeff Goldblum**, her "on again, off again" paramour, at a Tinseltown cafe. Everything is included, right down to stomach-turning sound effects and descriptions of Goldblum sniffing Dern's "sandalwood-scented hair." Please.

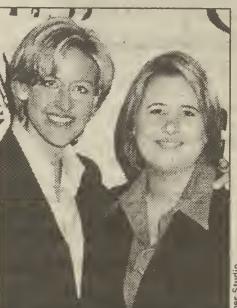
While the *EW* story does relate that Dern and **Ellen DeGeneres** are "very close" friends in real life, any lingering doubts about what the two do when together are quickly dispelled by the *EW* scribe's compulsive need to heterosexualize everything, as when he reveals that Dern's enthusiasm for boys is so intense he has to "turn off his tape recorder" when she explains what she likes about them. Unless you're a retard or an infant — perhaps the intended *EW* audience — we're quite sure that what Dern has to say about boys is nothing we haven't heard before.

The beat goes on

For those of you out there who aren't yet paled by the thought of *Ellen*'s coming out party on the 30th, you might want to tune in on Friday, April 25 when *More Than a Mouthful: Queer Culture TV* air an interview with two openly queer writers from *Ellen*, **Jennifer Fisher** and **Rob Lotterstein**. Among other things, Jen and Rob will reveal all the scintillating details of the long struggle to blow those heavy locks off **Ellen Morgan's** closet door; who first proposed the idea of *Ellen's* coming out; and relate what happened during the taping of the historic hour-long, star-studded episode. Hollywood's dynamic duo will also tell viewers what they can expect to see on future episodes of the show. It's doubtful that Jen and Rob will relate much about DeGeneres' personal struggle to emerge from that heavily guarded meat locker, but you can find out for yourself by watching *More Than a Mouthful* Friday at 10 p.m. on Viacom's Cable Channel 53.

Bird brain

In other *Ellen* news, ubiquitous **Chastity Bono**, media director for GLAAD, has revealed to *Entertainment Weekly* that she will play a counselor at a support-group meeting for parents of gays



Berlin Studio

and lesbians on the first post-coming out episode (May 7) of *Ellen*. Gee, this girl's come a long way for someone born to duo duds **Sonny** and **Cher**. Speaking of her job at GLAAD, Bono told *EW*, "I see my role as a technical adviser. If someone is making a film about astronauts, they talk to NASA, because it's a different world. The gay community can be a different world, too."

Yes, that's true, but usually the folks who get hired by NASA know what they're talking about. Chastity is so prone to putting foot in mouth we think she should wear stirrups on her face.

Here she is on the worst movie of 1996, *The Bird Cage*. *The Bird Cage* [sic] wasn't offensive, just inaccurate. I've known drag queens all my life, and I've never met one as effeminate as **Nathan Lane** was. Ever?

Does that mean, Chastity, that were you to meet a drag queen that effeminate you'd be disgusted? Get with the program, girl.

Look back in anger

We think **Daniel Harris** should be GLAAD's next media director, seeing as he's just written an insightful and highly entertaining book about queer culture. But we're not the only ones who think *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, due out next month from Hyperion, is fab. **Greg Indiana**, writing in the April edition of *Artforum*, discusses the book at great length, calling it a "brilliant suite of essays" whose discussion of contemporary queer culture injects a much-needed "historical sense into a seemingly ahistorical present." Harris' book, writes Indiana, "is an unsentimental eulogy for a vanishing ethnicity, one that's been assimilated into commercial culture at the expense of its defining characteristics."

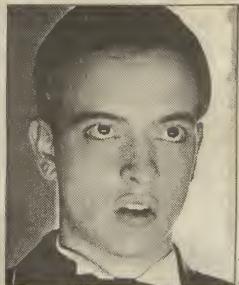
Indiana says the book is to be lauded for "showing gay people what they have had to abandon in order to be accepted" into the larger culture. "Much of [what was shed]," writes Indiana, "was pathological. But none of it was quite as banal as the current emphasis on gay marriage and monogamy, or 'coming out' as the endlessly restaged central drama in every homosexual's life, or the compulsive mimicry of mainstream tastes and 'lifestyle' options now promoted by gay media."

Channeling Harris, Indiana argues that the modern homosexual's acceptance into society has involved an unpleasant exchange requiring "the suppression from public view of everything that really does, or really did, make the homosexual different from the average American, whether it's male effeminacy, elitist artistic taste, or specific sexual practices. The reward is the transformation of the outcast into a welcome faceless consumer."

"While none of us exactly long for the oppressions of the past that brought us everything from **Ronald Firbank** to **Lyspinka**," writes Indiana, "the passing of this culture cedes ever more ground to the philistinism and mediocrity of the consciousness industry."

Pretenders to the throne

Speaking of Lyspinka, all of SF is gearing up for Josie's "Lyspinka Look-Alike, Perform-Alike" contest on Friday, May 1. Glittering New York drag legend **Lady Bunny** will emcee the event, which begins immediately after Miss Epperson's *Greatest Hits*

Matthew Ferguson in *Lilies*.

derway June 20-29. Though it's too early to give highlights of the showcase, there's at least one flick we can tell you about, Canadian director **John Greyson's** *Lilies*. A big hit last year at the Sundance, Toronto, New York, and Locarno Film Festivals, *Lilies* is the story of a bishop who is forced to watch a cast of men and women act out events from his past, including one involving his love for a boy who died 40 years earlier. Revenge, betrayal, and the true nature of love are revealed to all. The film features an international cast that includes **Matthew Ferguson**, the hunky star of *Eclipse* and *Love and Human Remains*.

Frida forever

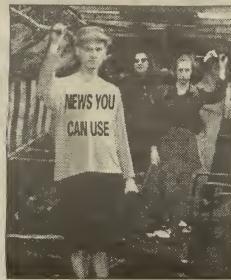
From PopcornQ this week we've learned that Mexican director **Roberto Sneider** is set to direct a biopic on the life of bisexual Mexican painter **Frida Kahlo**. *Desperado* star **Salma Hayek** will star in the film, which begins shooting in Mexico City, Paris, and New York this fall.

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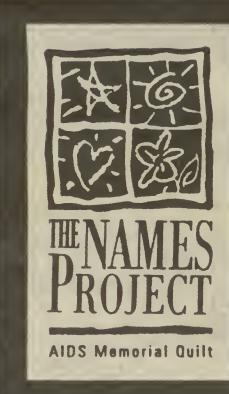
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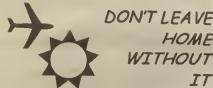
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Kathy Mattea has generously donated a limited number of concert tickets for her May 3rd concert at the Warfield, with proceeds to benefit the work of the Bay Area Chapter of the NAMES Project. For tickets and information, contact the NAMES Project at 415-863-1966, or stop by the Visitor Center located at 2362A Market Street.

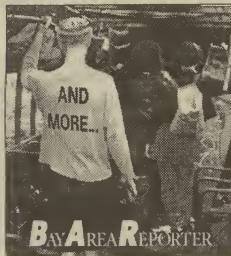
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Death in a finer salon

by Chad Jones

Actor Matt Callahan feels a sense of ownership toward the play *Shear Madness*, he has every right: he has been involved (off and on) with the popular comedy mystery for the last 12 years. That it took so long for one of the world's most successful plays to reach San Francisco may not surprise some folks, but what is surprising is that Callahan is back in the cast as **Tony Whitcomb**, the gay hairdresser whose salon is the scene of a murder. Callahan



Curtain Up!



Matt Callahan

joined the cast of the show in 1985 as Tony, has since performed every male role in the play, and has gone on to direct productions of *Shear Madness* in ten cities across the U.S. and Canada (he's assistant director for the San Francisco staging).

Look up *Shear Madness* in the *Guinness Book of World Records* and you'll find an entry for the longest-running non-musical play in American theater history. The Boston production is still running (the city even named a street after it), and the Chicago and Washington, D.C. mountings are, respectively, the second- and third-longest running plays on the same list.

Over lunch last week at the Grand Cafe, the handsome Callahan says he felt strongly about introducing Tony to San Francisco audiences. "I usually play one of the cops," Callahan says, "but I knew that the gay community in San Francisco would love Tony, so I made it clear that I had to play him here." At each show, the audience, based on evidence they collect in a question-and-answer session with the characters, decides who committed the murder. Callahan reports that of the six characters, Tony is voted murderer least often.

Like many actors, Callahan is cagey about his age—he says he's hurtling toward 40. Also in true actor form, Callahan flirtatiously asks the waiter to guess his age. The waiter, knowing his tip depends on his answer, surveys Callahan and wisely answers "32." Aside from his enthusiasm for *Shear Madness*, which seems genuine, Callahan says he did have one other motive for wanting to be the San Francisco Tony: "I thought it might help me get a date."

Shear Madness is at the Mason Street Theater. Call 982-5463 for information.

Flying solo

Effervescent lesbian comic Suzy Berger took a big risk last year: she played a straight woman in a play. The kicker is Berger wrote the play as a one-woman vehicle for herself. Called *The Talking Cure*, Berger's first full-fledged dramatic work had a successful run at Josie's Cabaret a year and a half ago, after which Ed Decker, Artistic Director of the New Conservatory Theatre Center, approached Berger about adding it to his Pride Season.

Berger's show is an AIDS



The cast of the Chameleon Theatre Company's *What The Butler Saw*.

Janine M

drama tinged with genuine comedy. She plays **Jody Grossman**, a woman who has never known a gay man until she befriends **Gary**, a fellow tenant in her building who is living with AIDS. The triumph of the show is that it refuses to wallow in gloom, like so many AIDS dramas, and offers a fresh, poignant spin on its subject.

Used to the rapid-fire delivery of her stand-up comedy routines, Berger says she had to adjust to the pace of dramatic theater. "This



Jill Posner

is the first serious thing I've done," she says. "It took some time for me to get used to not getting laughs every 30 seconds. But now I'm totally into the show. I just love it, and I'm so over the need for easy laughs." *The Talking Cure* runs through April 27 at the New Conservatory Theatre. Call 861-8972 for information.

What Orton wrought

Over the past few years, we've had several attempts to get **Joe Orton** — the *Oscar Wilde* of the '60s — right. Berkeley Repertory Theatre's production of *What the Butler Saw* was the best of the lot — zany, ribald and, most importantly, sharp. Other local productions of *Loot* and *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* haven't fared as well. The brave folks at the Chameleon Theatre Company are having a go at *What the Butler Saw*, and the results are mixed. First, it's generally not a good idea to force actors into awkward attempts at British accents — that sets the wrong tone from the start. Actors who would otherwise be game for anything just end up looking amateurish.

But once Orton's "kinky capers" get rolling, the cast of six seems more at ease with their material. In this rambunctious playwright's hands, the world of psychiatry circa 1969 is in for a good thrashing. By the time the chief brain doctor is diagnosed as a "fetishist, bisexual, transvestite, deviant murderer," the action has become so nonsensical as to be completely hilarious.

Director **Sarah Stillpass** guides her intrepid cast with an uneven hand, a condition under which farce cannot flourish. The bright light of the ensemble, however, is **Lee Kiszona** as **Mrs. Prentice**, the nymphomaniac, alcoholic wife of the chief psychologist. Kiszona has comedy legs in every sense of the word. Her performance is broad and hammy yet deliciously shaded, especially in her wildly funny, guttural responses to the mayhem sur-

page 40 ▶

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FILM

Maedchen in uniform

'Girl gang' flicks at the Roxie

by Gary Morris

Cultural memory is often as fragmented as a '50s prom dress, but fortunately, *le cinema* gives us irrefutable evidence of certain cultural trends. Such is the case with that hoary artifact of the '50s and '60s, the girl gang.

The riot grrrl of the '90s is a direct descendant of the trashy "hellcats in hotpants" who enlivened many an exploitation film in postwar America. It seems that some of these gals didn't find June Cleaver or Margaret Anderson quite the proper role model, no doubt because they couldn't imagine June or Margaret rumbling with rival gangs, stealing their sisters' boyfriends, murdering their fellow gang members, or smoking weed and shooting smack. These girls wanted thrills that couldn't be found in the foolish fantasies of conformist, middlebrow America.

In honor of these obscure rebels from America's not-too-distant past, the Roxie is showing three classic "girl gang" movies from the '50s and '60s. The first of these is the bluntly titled *Girl Gang* (1954). This film reeks of Ed Wood, and for good reason — it stars Wood stalwart Timothy Farrell as the horny heroin dealer who enslaves young girls, and it was produced by George Weiss, who gave us Wood's *Glen or Glenda?* The girl gang is not the driving force of this film, however; they're more titillating window dressing, with only a couple of scenes of robbing, killing, and fucking. *Girl Gang* is most effective as a primer on heroin addiction, and any would-be junkie can learn every nuance of how to get high on smack from the accommodating filmmakers.

If *Girl Gang* showed that the genre hadn't quite found its stride, Roger Corman's *Teenage Doll* gives us a wonderfully economical, almost anthropological view of the grrrls in their natural habitat — the street. Corman does far more with this material than might be imagined, thanks to a superior script by Charles Griffith and stunning noirish black-and-white photography by Floyd Crosby (who shot Murau's *Tabu* in 1931). In an opening scene worthy of Sam Fuller, a dishwasher at a slummy restaurant inadvertently dumps dishwasher water on the dead body of Nan Baker, a member of a gang called the "Black Widows." Of course, the Widows, led by Hel (Fay Spain), must take revenge on the rival "Vandalette" who killed Nan.

Corman crams what might be a two-hour movie into a 66-minute mini-epic, sketching the lives of each of the "Widows" and showing what drove them to join the gang. Ultra-tough Lorrie (Sandy Smith) calls everybody a "dumb square broad," including the crippled little sister she keeps in a squalid tenement room. The film's promise that it's "not a pretty picture" is especially evident when Lorrie tosses a box of old crackers to the obviously starving kid, who devours them hungrily as her bored sister looks on. One of the film's taglines appropriately evokes the ethos here: "Teenage dolls ... hunting down

any girl who dares break their jungle code!"

Dirty girl

Teenage Gang Debs was made in 1966, but impresario Johnny Legend says it "could have been made in the '50s." This amazing independent feature immediately tips us off that it's a woman's world — only the female stars' names are in capital letters. The top "deb" is Terry Fiore (Diane Conti), a beautiful, predatory "Manhattan" who systematically screws and then dispatches the top brass of a Brooklyn gang who carved his initials into her tits after he's fucked her. "Nobody carves me up!" she seethes, shortly before arranging Johnny's demise.

Diane Conti as Terry is the quintessential early riot grrrl: gorgeous in black capri pants, teased black hair, a venomous smile, and of course, black mascara that must have been applied with a trowel.

For Terry, sisterhood is apparently not powerful, as she goes after the other women as much as the men. This riot grrrl plays no favorites. In a typical scene, she demands that all male gang members rape Annie, one of the sisters she has deplored. "She's dirt!" Terry screams. "Show her!" In another sequence, she influences the IQ-challenged Nino to murder one of his old pals who was trying to escape from the gang.

Like the other two films, *Teenage Gang Debs* was shot in gritty black and white, on mostly real locations, providing an authenticity lacking in more upscale takes on the "juvenile delinquency" problem of the time. And of course, there's appropriate music to accompany all the punching, kicking, stabbing, and shooting up, in this case Lee Dowell's "Black Belt," which inspired these brainless, violent teens to start a new dance craze that, sad to say, never quite caught on. ▼



From *Teenage Doll*.

Girl Gang, *Teenage Doll*, and *Teenage Gang Debs* play Friday, April 25 at the Roxie

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Turning forty

The San Francisco International Film Festival

by Erin Blackwell

Midlife crisis starts with the realization that you're not going to be around forever. This year the San Francisco International Film Festival (SFIFF) turns 40, and while it shows no signs of reduced vitality, death and suicide do seem major preoccupations of the filmmakers represented.

If the festival were a funeral, however, it would be an Irish wake. Two hundred films of consistently high quality from 40 countries are a feast for the eyes, imagination, and emotions. The chance to squeeze into the Castro, the Kabuki, or the Pacific Film Archive with other out-and-proud cinephiles is a unique social experience not to be missed.

From armfuls of preview tapes I have randomly culled the following eight films as among the most complex and problemmatic. They all address the queer and deadly sides of human experience in oblique and haunting ways. Resisting my weakness for things French, I'm not even mentioning Cedric Klapisch's *When the Cat's Away*, the high-spirited gem of Paris vérité that is one of the opening night films.

Conspirators of Pleasure pretends to be an equal opportunity parade of fetishists in modern-day Prague, but Czech direc-

tor Jan Svankmajer is really concerned with his central character's meticulous preparation of a bondage rape and murder he successfully carries out on a life-sized rag doll. We follow a balding, bestubbed bachelor into a corner store for a *Penthouse* and into his closet for a wank session. Then we get to watch as, step by compulsive step, he concocts his rooster costume, steals a car, and does the deed on a female dummy that comes to life in time to participate fully in the horror of forced sex and death. For 75 wordless minutes two other men devise complex masturbation machines while three women go through motions that read like a man's fantasy of women's fantasies. Too bad SFIFF's first Persistence of Vision Award recipient, touted as a surreal genius of the old school, reveals himself a recycler of misogynist banalities. *Conspirators of Pleasure* plays May 3 (9:15 p.m.) at the Pacific Film Archive, and May 6 (7 p.m.) at the Kabuki.

Exile Shanghai is one long film. If anyone else were responsible we'd carp, but Ulrike Ottinger has this thing about making the experience last. So get ready for 275 minutes of old Jewish talking heads recalling the imperialistic pleasures of life in Shanghai that ended in World War II while the screen overflows with images of the energetic Chinese street life that has replaced the colonial en-

claves of many nations. This vast study in contrasts draws no simple conclusions. Six interviewees (including one devil-may-care fag), now longtime California residents, offer personal variations on expatriate life ranging from decadent privilege to desperate exile. Needless to say, the Nazis—or their allies, the Japanese—ruined everything. What ruins the film was the disrespect shown the one Chinese person asked to share her memories: she barely gets started when the subtitles cease and her voice, reduced to so much exotic noise, is engulfed by a lush Viennese violin. *Exile Shanghai* plays April 27 (12:30 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre, and May 4 (1 p.m.) at Pacific Film Archive.

Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask is Isaac Julien's stylized portrait of the black intellectual activist from Martinique who almost found true happiness during the Algerian war for independence. The usual talking heads and archival footage are matched with lingering shots of an actor who doesn't so much portray Fanon as symbolize him. The clean-cut grandeur of his profile, naked torso, and crisp, white doctor's jacket suggest an icon rather than a dynamo. After medical studies in France, Fanon published *Black Skin, White Mask* in 1947, a study of identity under racist rule. In the colonialist incapacity to recognize the colonized



Colin Salmon as Frantz Fanon.

subject, Fanon saw an implicit struggle to the death. Prone to self-contradiction and suffering from sexism, Fanon married a French woman and did revolutionary work in psychiatry. In the Algerian overthrow of the French master he thought he'd found his dream situation, and in the Arab his ideal man, but he hadn't bargained for the religious zeal that continues to complicate that ongoing revolution. *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask* plays the Kabuki May 6 (2 p.m., 7:15 p.m.) and the Pacific Film Archive May 7 (9 p.m.).

Genealogies of a Crime stars Catherine Deneuve in a double role as a psychiatrist killed by her ne'er-do-well nephew and the defense lawyer addicted to lost causes who gets him off. But that's not

level beyond human, now seems to be telling us something. *Genealogies of a Crime* plays April 30 at the Castro (6:45 p.m.), May 1 at the Kabuki (3:30 p.m.), and May 3 (6:30 p.m.) at Pacific Film Archive.



Maggie Cheung in *Irma Vep*.

Leaher Wengarten

Irma Vep, directed by Olivier Assayas, is more than just an insouciant take on the chaotic production of a French art film interruptus. Jean-Pierre Léaud, Truffaut's filmic alter ego, plays an auteur on the edge of a nervous breakdown who is remaking the 1915 serial thriller *Les Vampires* with martial arts star Maggie Cheung. In head-to-toe black latex as head cat burglar Irma Vep (a.k.a. Vampire), the unscathed action star proves a worthy successor to Sade's Justine, remaining unbelievably uncomplicated and uncomplexed while all around her people try to suck her psychic blood. Nathalie Richard as Zoé the costume designer, with her bad blonde hair and raw nerves, shreds celluloid as another disturbing, disarming avatar of the mythic lesbian vampire. *Irma Vep* plays May 3 at the Kabuki (10 p.m.).



Catherine Deneuve and Melvil Poupaud in *Genealogies of a Crime*.

the half of it. Argentinean director Raoul Ruiz has fashioned an extended irony on the abuses of psychoanalysis, the insanity of shrinks, the arcane social rituals of rival schools that devolve into religious cults, and the undying attraction of death. The plot is simple, but the telling is labyrinthine and will demand a second or third viewing for anyone who wants to know what the hell is going on. Fortunately, this intricate puzzle repays the dedicated voyeur's obsessive attention. The ending, which would have seemed a mere surreal fantasy before Heaven's Gate took off a month ago for a

Level Five is a French meditation on computers and death which should appeal to anybody who has noticed the accelerating proliferation of these phenomena and how well they mesh. The film is anchored by the requisite beautiful woman (Catherine Belkhodja) — nicknamed Laura, after the Gene Tierney character in that same-titled Hollywood meditation on love, death, and mistaken identity — who speaks into the camera from her post at a terminal. She has undertaken the completion of a video game about the battle of Okinawa left unfinished by her dead lover, whose presence

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Laurence Dale in Werner Schroeter's *Love's Debris*.

subsists as a voice-over (director Chris Marker). Their virtual relationship serves as fictional frame to a documentary about the Emperor-inspired murders of civilians after the Japanese defeat at Okinawa. Interacting with screens full of *Neuromancer*-inspired computer graphics, the film's sole human presence tries to make philosophic sense of the horrors of history. No matter how bad things get, the French will always be able to formulate the givens with reassuring chic. *Level Five* plays April 25 (6 p.m.) and April 30 (9:15 p.m.) at the Kabuki, and May 1 (9:30 p.m.) at Pacific Film Archive.

Love's Debris suggests a way into the Millennium that doesn't involve black Nikes, purple scarves, or Websites. Emotion—especially that romantic passion that sanctifies lust—as codified in grand opera is offered as an antidote to our technically perfectible world. The opening credits appear over a diagonal dolly through a tunnel; subsequent cuts include soulless examples of modern architecture, industrial plants, and the anonymous symmetry of an

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Chatty octet



Attala Dory

The 40th San Francisco International Film Festival opens tonight, Thursday April 24, with director Joe Mantello's long-awaited screen adaptation of Terrence McNally's hit play *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, a sophisticated comedy about eight witty gay men and the holiday weekends they spend together gossiping, opining, and reflecting on life during AIDS time.

McNally adapted his own play for the screen, and all of the actors who starred in Mantello's hit Broadway production (minus Nathan Lane) have reprised their roles. *Seinfeld's* Jason Alexander (above, right) stars as lovable Buzz. Tony-Award winning actor John Glover will be on hand for the opening night festivities, which get underway at the Kabuki Theatre at 7:30 p.m. For tickets (\$15/\$13) and information, call 929-FILM. *Love! Valour! Compassion!* opens in general release on Friday, May 16. ▼

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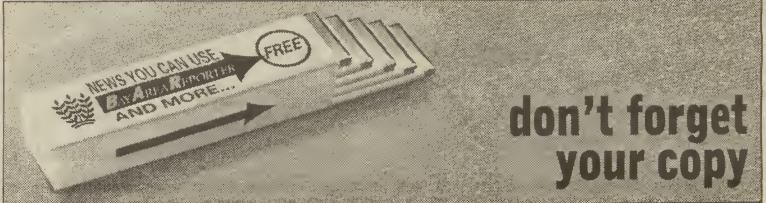
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Drawing Oto Roldan



The Rolling Stones: *Sticky Fingers*, 1971, by Andy Warhol and Craig Braun.

Icons

◀ Arts cover

Yet they are really the most abstract clothing imaginable, a field of blue that molds itself to the wearer's body (the jeans on display have been broken in nicely). First an emblem of the American West, they have become the universal uniform of work and play, of just-common-Joeness and torrid sex appeal (witness Andy Warhol's classic cover for the Stones' *Sticky Fingers* album). They are the most successful consumer product imaginable.

Icons is most satisfying when it

closely examines signs of our culture, like jeans, which have become almost invisible due to constant exposure. The CBS eye logo, for example, first wheeled out in the '60s, was based on the "eye of God" the Amish paint on their barns. Betsky reminds us that corporate logos are designed to look like universal symbols of divinity, resembling mandalas and other archetypes. Similarly, the mimicam and other surveillance apparatus are the eye of God watching over us, and surely lipstick is emblematic of the dick of death. To his credit, Betsky rejects Chanel as the iconic lipstick, despite its classic logo. He found the brand too clunky.

The self-referential inclusion of Mario Botta's design for SFMOMA is apt, as the museum has already been likened to a cross between a department store and a cathedral. Art museums are places for worship at the shrine of High Culture, and by straddling the gap between popular culture and the "precious object," Betsky's brainchild makes overt the links between the chapel, the gallery, and the sales floor.

One could quibble with the choices of the dozen artifacts

meant to define this cultural moment. Some are indisputable: the freeway and the video camera have, after all, given us the signal images of the '90s, evidence of the Rodney King beating and the slow-mo O.J. Simpson "chase." But the links between the surfboard and "surfing the Net," reiterated by showcasing the aquiline forms of high-design computer mouses, are based on an extended metaphor gone too far. And the baseball bat seems iconic of an earlier era, when sports and recreation were more likely to be lo-tech and not involve lots of fancy equipment.

But *Icons: Magnets of Meaning* is a landmark show for the museum's Architecture and Design department. By having the courage to break out of the fine arts box, Aaron Betsky and SFMOMA have turned uncommon focus on good design in ordinary life. After a visit to this exhibit, you might look at your next trip to The Gap in a whole new light. ▼

Icons: Magnets of Meaning remains up through August 5 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St. Call 357-4000 for information.

Local

men



Talk



Meet



Hot



Live



1-on-1



Chat



Curtain Up!

◀ page 36

rounding her. Kiszonas alone makes the show worth seeing. *What the Butler Saw* is at Venue 9 (formerly the Climate Theatre), 252 9th St., through May 10. Call 626-6404 for information.

Birthday Babs

As of Thursday, April 24, it will only be five years until **Barbra Streisand** is 60. Yes, her 55th birthday is upon us, and whether or not the mirror really does have two faces — and God knows she can afford a two-faced mirror — there's little doubt that the second half of the Streisand century has been rather disappointing. We did get a fairly rousing concert tour (and CD and video) in '94, but the last film, *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, was yet another chapter in the lengthy tome that is La Streisand's public journey through her own psychoses.

Things don't look to improve anytime soon. There's talk of a new

album, a collection of inspirational songs ranging from "Amazing Grace" to **Ann Hampton Callaway's** tedious "At the Same Time," but it's not due out till fall. The video version of *Mirror* will be out on May 27, and true Barbra-philes will be anxious to see director **Sydney Pollack's** new cut of *The Way We Were*, which reportedly reinstates excised footage having to do with **Katie and Hubbell's** involvement in politics and the blacklist. The new version is scheduled only for release on laserdisc, but there is rumor of a video release as well. The most exciting Streisand news concerns two new books, **Anne Edwards'** just-released *It Only Happens Once*, and **Barry Dennen's** intriguingly titled *My Life With Barbra: A Love Story*, due out this summer. Happy birthday, gorgeous. ▼

E-mail *Curtain Up!* at crtnup@aol.com. All theater/cabaret comments, suggestions and information are welcome.

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Bill Follon

Tara Subkoff and Alison Folland in *All Over Me*.

Puppy love

The Sichel Sisters' 'All Over Me'

by David Lamble

Alex and Sylvia Sichel's *All Over Me* recalls the bitter-sweet experience of two teenage girls who, despite a close friendship, suddenly realize over the course of one very hot summer that they no longer really know each other. It's a realization that will change their lives forever.

Claude (Allison Folland) and Ellen (Tara Subkoff) are inseparable 15-year-olds who've bonded on the streets of New York's Hell's Kitchen. The two spend most of their time together sharing intimate secrets and practicing guitar for their new band. Through Luke, a gay anarchist punk rocker (*Psychotica's* Pat Briggs), Claude suddenly realizes she is in love with Ellen, who, much to Claude's chagrin, only wants to cozy up to Mark (Cole Hauser), a working-

class Irish thug who thinks he's top dog in the 'hood. Though not a lesbian, Ellen is a user who knows how to tease Claude in bed, and it's Claude's growing understanding of Ellen's selfishness that eventually triggers her own self-awareness, setting her on a path toward emotional independence.

First-time filmmakers Alex and Sylvia Sichel, director and writer respectively, have created a memorable cast of characters: Claude, the friendly baby dyke who won't let the world define her; Ellen, an unapologetic bad girl; Luke, a gay man who won't take shit from anyone; and Mark, a street tough who'd rather kill than share his turf.

Despite a powerful ensemble cast, *All Over Me* is essentially Claude's film, and Folland (most recently seen in Gus Van Sant's dark comedy *To Die For*) is more

than convincing as a young woman who is naive enough to cling to a friend who's bad news, but smart enough to eventually learn to trust herself.

All Over Me is a deft coming-of-age flick that captures those painful moments during adolescence when teenagers suddenly realize that childhood is behind them and a strange new world lies just ahead.

Like the best pop films, *All Over Me* is fueled by a great soundtrack that includes girl band hits by Ani DiFranco and Patti Smith. Particularly fun is Sleater Kinney's jokey summing up of the film's theme in "I Wanna be Your Joey Ramone." ▼

All Over Me opens Friday, April 25 at the Lumière in San Francisco.

Dream team

by John Blanco

You'll probably think you have *Dream with the Fishes* figured out within the first 15 minutes. The movie begins with suicidal Terry (David Arquette) agreeing to accompany dying Nick (Brad Hunt) as he travels around Northern California in the last weeks of his life. If you expect this premise to lead to some life-affirming lessons for Terry and a teary, prolonged death scene for Nick, you won't be surprised by this flick's plot. What is surprising, though, is how the film manages to feel so real without stooping to the feel-good or the maudlin.

Dream with the Fishes, which was shot in the Bay Area by local director Finn Taylor, seems especially true to the experience of living in San Francisco. Most of us will recognize the kinds of characters who populate the film — misfits, fringe-dwellers, the unwell — from our own lives. Taylor's camera captures the Bay Area memorably, in dark, grainy colors, and throughout he offers many startlingly fresh images of the city, including some kaleidoscopic, acid-soaked shots of Fisherman's Wharf in



David Arquette as Terry.

what has to be the best LSD scene since Dennis Hopper and Karen Black went tripping among the tombstones in *Easy Rider*. ▼

Dream with the Fishes plays with *The River* Friday, April 25 (10 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre as part of the 40th SF International Film Festival. For tickets, call 931-FILM.

Fresh takes

'The River' and **'The Delta'** offer unvarnished takes on queer life

by Gary Morris

Recent cinema has been caught between two opposing but in some ways equally deadly camps — the reactionary tastes of middle America, which continue to insult us with films like *The Bird Cage*, and the insular mentality of the gay ghetto, which lauds aesthetically bereft "auteurs" like Bruce LaBruce just because they're queer.

As always, independent film offers a welcome alternative. Two works in this year's San Francisco International Film Festival, Tsai

The most intriguing aspect of *The River* is its oblique treatment of his characters' sexuality. The father's — and eventually son's — gay sauna encounters are both maddening and seductive, shot in near-total darkness with brief glimpses of undulating flesh that catch the light. Tsai's strategy comments on both the strictures against showing sex in Asian film and, more specifically, the characters' self-suppression, as they are unable to acknowledge their true selves. The mother's attempts to win her lover's attentions add a comic-absurdist element to this failure to connect, as he totally ig-

Huckleberry Finn, the two steal Lincoln's family boat for a leisurely river cruise. But this is no voyage to self-discovery because Lincoln, who seems sweet and confused, maintains a wall between them, refusing to learn anything that the savvy, emotionally open John might teach him. Lincoln is too emotionally disengaged to do more than flirt, but John's attraction to him is erotically charged and almost groveling — "I do everything for you," he says wistfully — and their interplay takes on disturbing elements of master-slave relationships in the Old South. This extends into the most



Lee Kang-sheng (right) in Tsai Ming-liang's *The River*.

Ming-liang's *The River* and Ira Sachs' *The Delta*, deal imaginatively with homosexuality as part of a larger landscape of race and class (*The Delta*) and existential anxiety (*The River*).

Director Tsai Ming-liang made a splash here last year with *Vive L'Amour*, which featured his favorite actor, Lee Kang-sheng, doing cartwheels through an empty apartment while dressed in fishnets and a feather boa. In *The River*, the actor plays the equally strange Xiao-kang, who volunteers as an extra in a movie, playing a corpse floating in a dirty river. Shortly after, he's seized by terrible head pains and spends the remainder of the film clutching his head and groaning. Meanwhile, his parents spend their time with unusual extracurricular activities — mother courting an indifferent lover, father haunting the gay saunas of Taipei looking for love.

As in his previous films, Tsai brilliantly manipulates small, nagging, relentless details that drive his characters insane. In *Vive L'Amour*, there was the realtor's frantic, seemingly endless attempts to swat a fly, and her unforgettable ten-minute, one-take crying jag. In *The River*, the mother takes an interminable ride in an elevator, mindlessly stopping at each floor. In another, the father attempts to plug up an apparently unstoppable leak in the apartment. Typically, he surrenders to this symbol of his own out-of-control life; instead of fixing the leak, he rechannels the water through an elaborate system of hoses to water his flowers.

nores her when she clumsily tries to lie next to him on a cramped couch.

Frustrated desire

First-time director Ira Sachs is also fascinated by the inability of people to communicate. He shot *The Delta* with an amateur cast in Memphis, a town he said "is filled with all these separate communities who have almost no way of speaking to each other." *The Delta* traces the brief, tortured relationship between an upper-class white boy, Lincoln (the gorgeous Shayne Gray), and a working-class half-Vietnamese, half-black man named John (Thang Chan). Lincoln has a girlfriend but is drawn to the underworld of gay cruising and the local peep shows. In a dazzling inversion of

minute details, as when Lincoln appropriates for his own use a dream that John recounts for him.

Sachs' style is impressionistic in rendering the "city-of-night" ethos of cruising, a world one speculates he knows well. And he lingers on his unpolished actors, allowing them to find their way into their characters. But *The Delta* resonates most powerfully in extrapolating a world of race and class inequities from a failed affair between two men. ▼

The River plays April 25 (7 p.m.) at the Castro, and May 2 (4 p.m.) at the Kabuki; *The Delta* plays May 1 and 3 (both at 9:30 p.m.) at the Kabuki, and May 5 (7 p.m.) at Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley.

DANCE

High energy

Even years ago, Doree Susann Clark retired from professional dancing but decided to teach a few classes to stay limber. After her students achieved a minimum level of proficiency, they held a recital in a friend's living room. Flash forward to the present, and the Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers, now numbering 125, easily sell out the Palace of Fine Arts with a show that is fabulous, fun, and festive. Clark is especially skilled at creating choreography that showcases her dancers, who range in ability from barely beginners to professional level. The result is a delightful evening in the theatre, filled with high energy and more fun than I can remember having in a long time. This year's show, "What A Way To Go," runs May 30-31 at the Palace of Fine Arts. Call 331-8041 for tickets and information. But call soon as this show always sells out early. ▼

—Deborah Peifer



Shayne Gray in *The Delta*.

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Bloodless Bruckner

by Philip Campbell

Former San Francisco Symphony Music Director Edo de Waart blew into town last week, following closely on the heels of another conductor laureate of the orchestra, Herbert Blomstedt. But whereas Blomstedt coaxed exceptional performances from the orchestra during his two-week visit here, de Waart never got beyond orchestral management.

Every ten years or so the SF Symphony dusts off Anton Bruckner's massive Seventh Symphony. Pierre Monteux led the first San Francisco Symphony performance of the piece in 1947, and since then Enrique Jordà, Josef Krips, Seiji Ozawa, Blomstedt, and de Waart himself 20 years ago, have all had a go at it. De Waart's second attempt last week to reveal the heart of this 65-minute masterpiece was decidedly underwhelming.

For Bruckner to succeed, a conductor must transcend mere bravura. Music of such enormous scope can't be played for its surface appeal alone, no matter how inviting it might be. On the contrary, a work of this magnitude stands or falls on the conductor's ability to reveal something of the spiritual and intellectual qualities that inspired its creation. Without that important added dimension, the orchestra might as well be playing scales. Last week, de Waart seemed incapable of saying anything new with this piece, and his tendency to play ever louder and faster felt like a desperate attempt to disguise his lack of ideas. The performance was further marred by consistently poor intonation from the brass.

The program opened with First Chair Cellist Michael Gre-



Edo de Waart.

banier performing Robert Schumann's Cello Concerto in A Minor. Grebanier provided an adequate reading of the work, espe-

cially in the lovely Langsam movement, but the cellist's tone is simply not strong enough for a starring role. ▼

OPERA

Handel's 'Ezio'

San Francisco Opera Center Director Richard Harrill will present the West Coast premiere of Handel's *Ezio* April 26, 29, May 1 and 3 at the Ira and Leonore S. Gershwin Theatre at the University of San Francisco. Susan Webb will conduct.

First performed at the King's Theatre in London in 1732, *Ezio* tells the story of a young Roman general, Ezio, who conquers Attila the Hun and returns victorious to his emperor, Valentiniano. Though declared a hero throughout the land, Ezio becomes the victim of a terrible plot masterminded by the emperor's assistant Massimo. Confusion over his guilt or innocence plagues the six characters in the opera as they weigh love against loyalty to family and country.

The cast includes mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Bishop (pictured), soprano Peggy Kriha Dye, soprano Kristin Clayton, and tenor Stuart Skelton.

Tickets are priced at \$20, \$25, and \$30, and may be purchased at the San Francisco Opera Box Office, 199 Grove Street, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by phone at (415) 864-3330. The Ira and Leonore S. Gershwin Theatre is at 2350 Turk Boulevard. Curtain times for all performances are 8 p.m. ▼



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The accidental bigot

by Daniel Harris

Same-Sex Marriage, Pro and Con: A Reader, edited with an introduction by Andrew Sullivan; Vintage, \$14

For those baby-boomers most influenced by feminism and the Sexual Revolution, the issue of gay marriage — of Eve versus Steve, as the Evangelical Right chooses to frame the debate — is as significant as the controversies that swirl around the hotly contested issue of whether one should be allowed to go to the high school prom with a date of the same sex. Like the prom, gay marriage seems to us a simple matter of a basic civil right, but not something we can get terribly excited about, having watched too many relationships founder on the rocks, with once doting spouses brawling in divorce courts, haggling over every stick of furniture, pot holder, and place mat.

For us, gay marriage is like a lunch counter where homosexuals aren't allowed to dine, and where we therefore fully intend to stage a lengthy sit-in, to park ourselves down right beneath the noses of the exasperated waitresses until they pull their pencils from behind their ears and take our orders. But please don't mistake our eagerness to sit at this counter as a sign that we like the food. Please don't insist that we see this Woolworth's or Wendy's as the Four Seasons or Chez Panisse, as a four-star restaurant that merits our unequal respect.

Conservative gay commentator Andrew Sullivan asks us to treat this endangered institution much more reverently than many of us really care to. His interesting, if extremely fragmentary, anthology *Same-Sex Marriage, Pro and Con: A Reader* brings together disparate and fascinating documents from both ends of the political spectrum, from vicious attacks by reactionary Jewish talk show host Dennis Prager, who maintains that gay liberation is one small step down a slippery slope toward "incest liberation," to maudlin transcriptions of Congressional debates in which the eloquent Barney Frank squares off with the stammeringly inarticulate Sonny Bono, the homophobic father of a lesbian. The book offers the profoundly demoralizing spectacle of presumably rational and intelligent people using reason to justify their visceral, unthinking prejudices, at once boldly championing the civil rights of blacks and yet reviling homosexuality as an abomination against nature or a self-indulgent exercise in socially irresponsible narcissism.

One of the reasons that many gay baby-boomers find the issue of gay marriage so troubling is that it is closely linked to another related issue, one that the uxorious purists in Sullivan's anthology almost unanimously take to task as the ultimate no-no, sexual promiscuity. The controversy over gay marriage has become more pressing in the last few years because many gay activists view it in explicitly prophylactic terms, as if it were a lead that will curb our voracious sexual appetites and save us from the ravages of AIDS. The subtext of the marriage debate is not love but death, not valentines but viruses. The writers in Sullivan's collection take every opportunity to cluck their tongues disapprovingly at casual sexual encounters, asserting with evangelical fervor that



Editor Andrew Sullivan.

monogamy is the only permissible context for the expression of homosexual desire, which must be swathed in thick layers of sentimentality and viewed through rose-colored glasses of romance. In Sullivan's anthology, an eerie similarity emerges between the monogamist and the bigot: both do what homophobes have done for decades — outlaw promiscuous gay sex and stigmatize homosexual encounters in all but the most limited, morally sanctioned situations, as the gay conservative Jonathan Rauch does in his essay "For Better or Worse?" in which he sadistically ostracizes old maids and eagerly anticipates a time when single gay people are "disapproved of or pitied."

Many of the reactionary commentators in Sullivan's collection argue that homosexual marriage would sap the foundations of an already shaky institution, that it would deliver the *coup de grace* to an arrangement that has become a travesty of what it once was, trivialized by an epidemic of domestic violence, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and even partial-birth abortions. But this argument is simply a dodge, an attempt to scapegoat innocent victims who are being forced to bare the brunt of the disintegration of the entire nuclear family, a beleaguered unit that many view as the very backbone of social stability but which in fact has collapsed into a shambles because of spousal abuse and child neglect, dead-beat dads and latch-key kids. The threat of legally recognized homosexual relationships is a scourge that many intolerant heterosexuals are using to put their own houses in order, a clever tool that diverts attention from the institution's self-inflicted wounds by evoking the specter of godless reprobates who would defile a sacrament that elevated divorce statistics have already done a splendid job of desecrating. ▼

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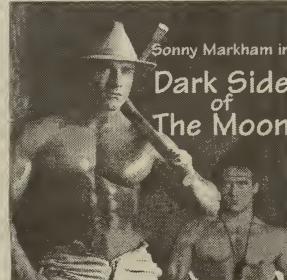
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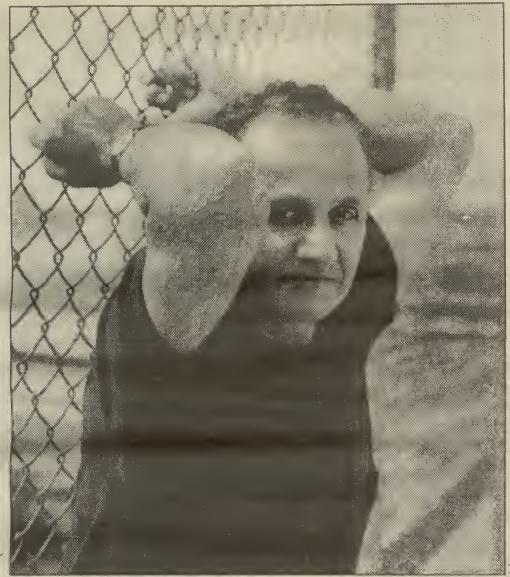
by Jim Nawrocki

A House on the Ocean, A House on the Bay by Felice Picano; Faber and Faber, \$24.95

The memoir is a demanding literary form. Unlike the novel, which creates a fictional world and stands or falls on the basis of how captivating that world is, the memoir recollects a world that has already been "created" by experience and refined by memory. By attempting to engage the reader in a particular interpretation of a set of events, the memoir has to justify itself in ways that fiction does not. It is not enough for a memoir to simply tell a story; it has to reflect upon, and draw lessons from, a life lived.

A House on the Ocean, A House on the Bay is Felice Picano's attempt to come to terms with his life in Manhattan and the Fire Island Pines during the 1960s and '70s. As a memoir it sometimes seems forced. The book is a kind of "sentimental journey" for Picano, who reflects upon his friendships and romances of the time, and laments the passing away of what it was, and who it was."

Picano also recalls those years in terms of his development as a writer. As he moves through a succession of less-than-fulfilling jobs (helping out at his father's business, working as a bookstore man-



John Groo

Author Felice Picano.

ager, and even stuffing envelopes), he remains committed to his desire to write, despite a certain amount of loneliness and isolation.

Clearly, the sacrifices that writing demands have not stopped Picano from becoming one of today's most prolific and versatile gay writers. In addition to producing numerous novels, including the award-winning *Like People in History*, and such nonfiction as *The New Joy of Gay Sex*, Picano has also published many short stories and essays, as well as excerpts from the journal he's kept for most of his life. The journal plays a prominent role in his new memoir, which is actually the third in a series; the two previous volumes, *Ambidextrous* and *Men Who Loved Me*, covered his childhood, adolescent, and student years.

A House on the Ocean, A House on the Bay is a study in dualisms. The two houses mentioned in the

his brushes with death: an armed robbery in his father's store, and a misdiagnosis of cancer.

Despite his prominence as a gay literary figure (in addition to writing, the author has founded several gay publishing concerns and is one of the founders of the Violet Quill Club, an organization established to help other gay writers), Picano spends relatively little time reflecting on his identity as a gay writer. He seems more concerned with chronicling his movement through the gay social circles of the '60s and '70s. He drops names with abandon. Sometimes, as in his description of his acquaintance with Bette Midler, this is both entertaining and enlightening; in many other instances, however, it seems gratuitous.

While these lapses are more or less forgivable, what's harder to take is Picano's almost elitist assertion that he was part of a gay Gold-

The book is a sentimental journey that reflects upon Picano's friendships and romances.

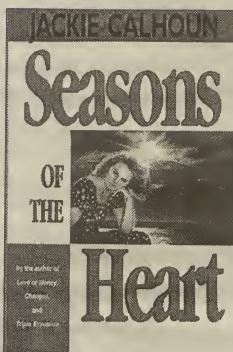
book's title, for example, refer to two sides of Fire Island, and, by extension, to two ways of experiencing the world: "What distinguished the two most clearly, and connected them so closely, was intensity of sound. On the ocean side, the constant surrurration of the surf seemed to blanket all in an undertone of white noise. But [on the bay side] ... it was the island itself and its life that filled my awakenings and dreams."

In many ways, the book is about these two forces, the relentless "white noise" distractions of the world and fate, and the "awakenings and dreams" of Picano's romantic and literary pursuits. While Picano is an engaging writer, the tension of these two forces isn't always gripping. He sometimes gets carried away with the richness of details his journals no doubt provide him. For example, Picano spends a considerable amount of time describing his conflicts with the bookstore employees he managed. It's not exactly high drama, but Picano seems to think it is. He's much more effective describing two of

an age that makes the present pale by comparison. Toward the end of his memoir he revisits his old haunts to remember the places and people that are no more. As he addresses those who share his sense of loss, as well as the "very, very many" who never experienced the Pines, he declares, "... you may despair! For ours was the moment, the irretrievable moment of glory, and now all is decline."

Later, when he derides the arrival of the "new people," including the "late-1980s young lesbians and their goatee-bearded, close-cropped headed[,] buff-bodied, hairless young gay buddies," Picano seems to forget that he and his crowd were once the young new arrivals who moved in on the turf of the island's older gay set. While it's no doubt true that the places Picano once cherished have changed, and probably not all for the better, his tone hardly encourages sympathy. In the final analysis, Picano's memoir is self-serving, and misses the opportunity to present an instructive examination of a significant time and place in gay history. ▀

BOOKS



Ordinary lives

by Deborah Peifer

Seasons of the Heart by Jackie Calhoun; Naiaid, \$11.95

Sarah lay in the bed she shared with Fran these past five years pretending to read... 'Want to make love?' Fran asked. 'Not tonight,' she said. Not when she was struggling to be free.' With these few but well-chosen words, Jackie Calhoun shows us a relationship in serious need of separate vacations. Fran and Sarah have been together for five years, but following her mother's death and the overwhelming dreariness of her daily life, Sarah decides the only way to save herself is to get out and quickly. Stunned by her abrupt departure, Fran is left to face the rest of her life alone, and she is considerably less than thrilled by the prospect.

Calhoun does a fine job of capturing the joys, sorrows and tedium of the everyday without ever being tedious for her reader. She creates memorable characters and places them in believable situations. On the way to an absolutely credible conclusion, she offers wry observations about the ways in which we lesbians find and make families and communities. The efforts of Fran and Sarah to find their separate ways are moving, sometimes funny, and always filled with the stuff of truth.

The subplot concerning Fran's mother's becoming senile is par-

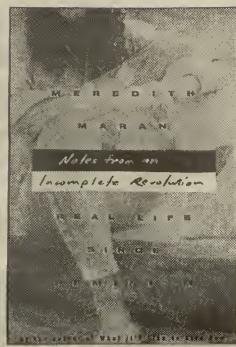
ticularly well-handled. I suspect most of us unmarried daughters have been in the position of having to assume all the caretaker responsibilities for a parent while our male and/or married siblings are able to make suggestions from afar while offering no practical help at all. Calhoun shows us Fran's anger as well as her shame at the anger she feels toward her mother's forgetfulness. *Seasons of the Heart* is a rich and touching look at some ordinary lives lived extraordinarily. ▼

Boy crazy

by Deborah Peifer

Notes From an Incomplete Revolution: Real Life Since Feminism by Meredith Maran; Bantam, \$22.95

What's wrong with this book is summed up in its subtitle: *Real Life Since Feminism*. Meredith Maran conflates her life with real life as if



there were no other possibilities for real life that differed from her own experience. This enables her to make gross generalizations from the sparsest evidence. The primacy of personal experience has a long and troubled history in feminist theory. It came from the real experiences of millions of women who were told that they weren't feeling what they felt, who were told that their experiences were untrue, whether in the matter of vaginal orgasm, the frustration of their lives, or menstrual cramps. I knew a doctor who hospitalized women who complained

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Calendar

by Roberto Friedman



On the bay.

Sail away

Our fondest memories of youth are of sailing down the muddy Chester River into the Chesapeake Bay, tiller in one hand, gin & tonic in the other. Our boat was a flyweight Sunfish, and the tidewater estuaries of Maryland's Eastern Shore ran muddy and deep. This weekend we hope to be on a boat bigger than a Sunfish, bounding along the current-whipped San Francisco Bay. Pacific Sail Expo, billed as the first-ever comprehensive sailboat show in these parts, runs today, Thursday, through Monday at Jack London Square in Oakland.

The Expo is mostly a trade show, with boat builders, sail makers, and all types of sailing products on display. Celebrity sailors will be on hand, including Paul Cayard, the skipper who will represent the St. Francis Yacht Club in the 2000 America's Cup race. But there will also be sailing lessons on those Sunfish Lasers (well do we recall our first lesson: what to do when you capsize); a children's regatta; a day of women sailors; and charity rides around the harbor, to benefit the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors.

The best part of sailing, even when your mainsail is luffing, even when you're tacking into the wind, even when your last line went overboard, is being powered across the choppy water entirely by the forces of nature. Out on the briny depths, there's only your boat, your seamanship, and old King Neptune, puffing his cheeks. ▼

Pacific Sail Expo hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday (4/24-27), and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday (4/28). \$10. Jack London Square, Port of Oakland. Info: (800) 817-SAIL.

Fri 25

Art Sale

Fixed-price art sale benefits The LAB, reception tonight, hostess Joan Jett Blakk. \$10. Preview, 6pm; sale, 7:30pm. Sat. & Sun., 12-5pm. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Broadway and Beyond

Evening of song with baritone Thomas Lister. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$10. Jewel Theatre, 655 Geary. 931-9423.

CORE

"Entertainment for the Apocalypse" by Jess Curtis, Keith Hennessy, Stephanie Maher, Stanya Kahn, Jules Beckman. Fri.-Sun. thru 4/27 at 8:30pm. \$10. Brady Street Studio, 60 Brady. 922-2385.

Eros

Sex club celebrates 5th anniversary: live entertainment, safe sex demo, cake. 8-11pm. 2051 Market. 255-4921.

The Face by the Door

Kristina Robbin's solo show: lip-liner and a hot night in Dallas. Thurs.-Sat. thru 5/3 at 8:30pm. \$8-12. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Gay Comedy Night

Suzy Berger, Danny Williams, Karen Ripley. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Growing into your Cultural Skin

Amorphic robot works, computer-controlled Chicano art by Chico MacMurtie. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/26. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Heaven/Hell

"Do you believe?" Interfaith spiritual discussion group, free. 6:30pm. Sacred Space, 776 Haight. 621-3317.

Helen Cohen

"Within Context," exhibition of miniature sculptures. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/26. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

Home

Performance art by Red Jordan Arobateau, Nicola Harwood, Rebecca Hensler, more. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$8-12. Luna Sea Women's Perf. Proj., 2940 16th St. 863-8929.

Louisiana Purchase

42nd Street Moon presents concert of Irving Berlin's musical romp. Thurs.-Sun. thru 5/11, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$18. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Making Porn

Porn star Ryan Idol in Ronnie Larsen's play about gay porn industry. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/18, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

More Than a Mouthful

Queer Culture TV: *saga of Ellen's outing*. 10pm. Cable Channel 53.

Netherlands Dance Theater 3

"Tears of Laughter" mixed repertory program. Thurs.-



151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Justin Chin

Book party for *Bite Hard*, with Horehound Stillpoint, open reading, free. 8pm. Paradise Lounge, 1501 Folsom. 621-1911.

MACT Brunch

Men of All Colors Together's "My Favorite Food" potluck, bring enough for 5. 1pm. 2nd fl., Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. 675-0201.

Michael C. Botkin

Show commemorates life and work of journalist & provocateur. Sat. & Sun., 2-5pm thru 5/25. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, 973 Market, 4th fl. 777-5455.

Mon 28

Frank Pietronigro

Retrospective exhibition of paintings and works on paper. Mon.-Fri. thru 6/27. Atrium Gallery, 901 Market. 695-0933.

Gay and Lesbian Book Club

Discussing Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina*. Free. 7:30pm. A Clean, Well-Lighted Place, 2417 Larkspur Landing, Marin. 461-0171.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

MC Linda Moakes, aspiring funny performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Ramon Markus Kadi

Art exhibit, with Xavier Castellanos, Christopher Ryan. Thru 5/16. Lobby, 595 Market. 552-2592.

Wet Wit

"Getting Carried Away with

Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 4/27. \$18-24. Center for the Arts Theater, 701 Mission. 392-4400.

Rocky Horror Superstar

Klubstitute Collective presents Ruby Toosday's spectacle, the Jesus of Frankenfurter story. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm extended thru 5/3. \$15. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. 339-8113.

Skivvies

Alameda Co. Leather Corps dances in their undies, auction benefit AIDS Emergency Fund. Beer/soda bust, \$5 in underwear, \$8 dressed. 9pm. Turf Club, 22517 Mission, Hayward. (510) 881-9877.

Suburbia 3000

An original rock musical by D'Arcy Drolling, final installment of the *Brite Sleep* trilogy. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/26. \$14. SOMAR Theater, 934 Brannan. 995-4667.

The Talking Cure

Suzy Berger's one-woman show: a straight woman and the death of a gay friend. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 4/27. \$12-15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Tea and Crumpets

Original musical comedy by Joel Adlen and Steve Josephson. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 4/27. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 487-5473.

Wandering Ghost
"Visions of Lafacadio Hearn, Part I," multimedia Theatre of Yugen production. Thurs.-Sun. thru 5/18, call for times. \$12-15. Tonight at 8pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7978.

What the Butler Saw
Chameleon Theatre Co. in Joe Orton's farce. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/10. \$10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-6404.

Sat 26

Baile de la Primavera

Latino dance club, 3rd anniv. of El Ambiente de Aquilas, AIDS outreach org. \$10. 10pm-3am. Futura, 174 King. 665-6715.

GendeRupture II

"Race and Representation in the Transgender Communities," Harvey Milk Institute conference on gender. \$25. 11am-6pm. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 552-7200.

Lynnie's Gonna Talk

"Why Don't Cha Come Over," Tribe 8 lead singer Lynne Breedlove reading and ranting. Sat. at 8pm thru 4/26. \$4-7. Builid, 483 Guerrero. 863-3041.

Lypsinka's Greatest Hits

"(The Second Farewell)," musical theater diva's new extravaganza. Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$12. 4pm-2am. Skylark, 3089 16th St.

8:10pm.
\$18-20. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Psychophant

Silent auction of selected erotic works, benefits AIDS Emergency Fund. 4pm. Auto Erotica, 4077A 18th St. 861-5787.

The Sweetest Hangover

("& other stds.," cool grooves and chemical highs of underground queer club scene. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 4pm thru 4/27. \$10-14. Brava Theater Ctr., 2789 24th St. 647-2822.

Words on Dance

Leading ballerinas Martine van Hamel, Kristine Elliott in conversation w/film, video clips. \$12. 4pm. Center for the Arts Theater, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Sun 27

Amelia's Flashback

Tea Dance Party benefits Elbo Room Tom Boys, women's softball team. \$5. 5-9pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia.

Club Analog

New electronic music discotheque, DJs Deena Davenport, Alvin A Go-Go, Lars from Mars. \$3. 10pm-2am. Skylark, 3089 16th St.

Films by Yvonne Rainer

Survey of artist's films, incl. premiere of *MURDER and murder*. Fri. & Sun. at 1&3pm thru 5/4. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

(L to R) Stanya Kahn, Stephanie Maher, Jess Curtis and Keith Hennessy in *CORE...entertainment for the apocalypse* at Brady Street Studio. See Friday.





Words On Dance presents Martine van Hamel (pictured) and Kristine Elliott, two leading ballerinas, in conversation at Center for the Arts Theatre. See Saturday.

the Flood," photo exhibit of recent natural disaster by Ron Lazar. Thru 5/27. Coffee Bazaar, 14045 Armstrong Woods, Guerneville. (707) 869-9706.

Tues

Assimilation

Photographs by Pipo Nguyen-Duy, thru 5/21. Buechon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Bubble Rap

Cartoon outtakes from artists' fantasies, incl. Timothy Cummings, Nicole Eisenmann, Jim Shaw, Kevin Woodson. Thru 5/11. Place Pigalle, 520 Hayes.

Fotos Verboten!

Exhibition of homoerotic photographs by Greg Day, reception tonight, 6pm, with Supe Tom Ammiano, Hirschfeld scholar Dr. Mel Gordon, more. Thru 6/30. Blow Bud- dies, 933 Harrison.

Grease

Tommy Tune's production, starring Sally Struthers, Adrian Zmed, Mackenzie Phillips. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/11, call for times. \$15-62.50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, Taylor at Market. 776-1999.

Hugh Shurley

Exhibition of mixed media collages. Thru 5/10. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

Lucy Jane Bledsoe

Reading from *Working Parts*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

The Mantel of Deborah
Domestic sculpture by Shilo D. Rives, thru 4/30. Luna Sea Gallery Space, 2940 16th St. #216C. 863-2989.

Modernist Nudes

Photographs from the '20s by Frantisek Drtikol. Tues.-Sat. thru 5/24. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Michael J. McArdle

Paintings in acrylic and mixed media. Thru 4/30. Laguna Sidewalk Cafe, 297 Page. 863-7373.

Remember Cambodia

Sheila Pinkel's mixed-media project, with Ken Miller and Pearl Ubungen's *Take me to the Tenderloin, Now!* Thru 5/3. SF Camerawork, 115 Natomia. 764-1001.

Sappho: No Ordinary Housewife

Exhibit of life and times of Greek poet Sappho. Thru

4/30. Hormel Center, SF Main Library, Civic Center. 510-222-4552.

Wed

Ellen Party

GLAAD sponsors viewing party to watch *Ellen*. \$10. 7pm. Club Skirts, 300 De-Haro. 337-4962.

Great Brits

Exhibit of creative British influences on SF performing arts. Thru 6/14. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Jam on the Groove

Urban choreography by GhettOriginal Production Dance Group. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/4. \$14-26. Tonight at 8pm. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Thur

Jay DeFeo

"Works, 1952-89," first major exhibition of late Bay Area artist, thru 5/25. Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant, Berkeley. (510) 642-0808. Also: "Jay DeFeo: The Florence View and Related Work" exhibit, thru 6/1. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2556.

PFLAG Talk

Past President of PFLAG

Mitzi Henderson gives "Straight Talk for Gay People," free. 7pm. New Main Library, Civic Center. 557-4566.

Survival System Train

Sculpture by Kenji Yanobe on exhibit; also, Pepón Osorio's *Badge of Honor and Organically Grown works*, Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

When the World Was Green

"(A Chef's Fable)," collaboration between Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/11, call for times. Tonight at 8:30pm. \$17-21. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

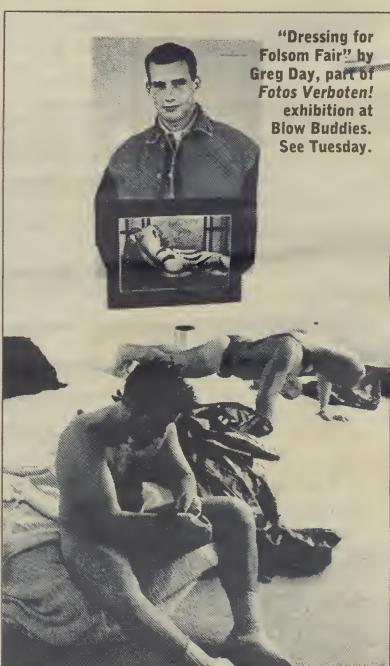
Carol Queen

Reads from *Real Live Nude Girl: Chronicles of Sex-Positive Culture*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Dalliance

Shotgun Players present Tom Stoppard's adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's play *Liebelei*. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, thru 5/31. \$8-10. La Val's Subterranean Theater, 1834

"Dressing for Folsom Fair" by Greg Day, part of Fotos Verboten! exhibition at Blow Buddies. See Tuesday.



Euclid, Berkeley. (510) 716-9082.

The Lonely Planet

Absurdist comedy about friendship and fear in age of AIDS. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/17. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Lipsinka Look-Alike

"Perform-Alike Contest" hosted by The Lady Bunny, celebrity judges, prizes, benefits Project Open Hand. \$35. 7:30pm show, 9pm contest. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Night of the Hunter

"In Pursuit of the Hirsute," photos & sculpture by Chris Komater, reception tonight, 6pm. Thurs.-Sat. 12-6pm thru 5/31. 509 Cultural Center, 509 Ellis. 255-5971.

Praise and Punishment Show

Fratelli Bologna in evening of competitive improv. Thurs. at 8pm thru 5/29. \$10. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 285-4328.

Sent(a)Mental

Recent paintings & other works by transgender artist Daphne Scholinski, thru 5/4. Lawrence L. Hultberg Fine Art, 544 Hayes. 861-8251.

Shear Madness

Whodunit set in unisex hair-styling salon opens. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$28-32. Mason Street Theatre, 430 Mason. 982-5463.

These Nervous Days

Performance by Justin Chin. 6: 8:30pm. SFAI Lecture Hall, 800 Chestnut. 749-4545.

Vibe

DJ Jon Bush spins deep acid trance. 21+. \$3. 10pm-2am. Stud, 9th & Harrison.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

Greg Day

This Week's Dinner Specials

Chicken Stroganoff with marsala wine, mushrooms, & sour cream, served over fettuccini.....\$8.95

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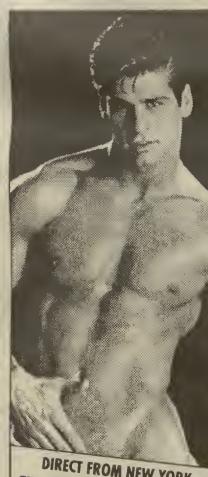
Grilled Pork Chops with pineapple sweet & sour sauce, vegetable and chef's rice or potatoes.....\$9.50

Chicken-Fried Steak or Grandma's Meatloaf with vegetable, mashed potatoes and gravy.....\$7.95

PRIME RIB au jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish.....\$11.95

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BLOW BUDDIES

art © Ira Smith



Mr. SF Leather '97 Tom Powers (center) with first runner-up Barry Rogers (l) and second runner-up Lance Porria (r).

Mister Marcus

Tom Powers is Mr. SF Leather 1997

by Mister Marcus

One of the most successful reigns of a Mr. San Francisco Leather ended last Saturday night, April 19, at the Russian Center. Close to 700 of the leather faithful gathered not only to welcome the new Mr. SF Leather but also to honor Gary Virginia, who held the title for the past year. And what a year it has been!

While our city has had the honor of seeing four of our finest win the International Mr. Leather title, their year(s) in office consisted mainly of traveling near and far to raise consciousness, much needed funds and carry on the traditions of their predecessors. They, therefore, had little time to plan benefits in their own locales. We here

at home had to remain content reading about the many excursions our man had made and the honor he brought us by doing an outstanding job with the title. Many of them, after their title year, continued their community service in a big way. We have never been disappointed in our winners.

Ah, but when a man wins a title and swells leather pride by involving himself in all aspects of his community, he commands respect and homage and all the accolades that our Gary Virginia has received. A prolonged standing ovation greeted Mr. Virginia at the end of his stepping-down speech last Saturday night. He presented the community with a memorial plaque (courtesy of his title "wife" Ms. Golden Gate Leather Beth Downey, and Intl. Mr. Deaf Leather Daniel Sonnenfeld) with the names of all the previous winners of that title engraved on it and space for a photo of the current incumbent. It will hang, spotlighted, on the walls of the San Francisco Eagle in perpetuity. Bedlam in the house!

The Mr. SF Leather '97 committee and Fantastic Realities Unlimited (i.e., Audrey Joseph) pulled off another smashing soiree. There were so many events going on in town, it was iffy as to how ticket sales (benefiting the AIDS Emergency Fund) would go. There was the tribute to Pat Montclaire at the Alcazar, the AIDS Dance-A-Thon and the Gay Men's Chorus concert competing. But leather people are true to their tribe, and handsome and hunky leather-clad crowd kept the seats filled and the bar (manned by the Golden Gate Guards) busy.

That sassy, scintillating vocalist Solomon Rose opened the show with a tribute to the contestants ("Luck Be a Lady Tonight") as he pranced around the computer set created by Warren Cave and Brian Blackwelder (sleather.CUM). Thunderous clapping!

After the scoring system and rules were explained and the

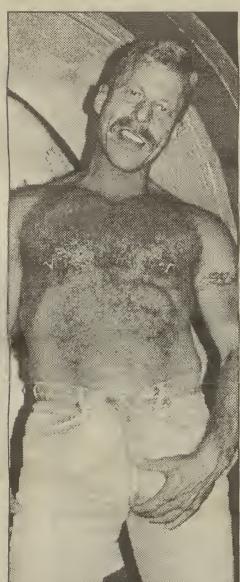
judges introduced (IMs. L Jill Carter, Loren Berthelson, Doug Stromberg, Gary Virginia, Randy Wright and Paul Yinger), the emcees, Queen Cougar and Intl. Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon, brought on the seven contestants (Cruz Lennox, Barry Rogers, Jesus Martinez, Lance Porria, Tom Powers, Leif Smith and Brian Turner) for their first appearance in full leather and posed questions the seven had written for each other. After that, Queen Cougar commanded the mike and offered up a lovely rendition of "The Second Time Around" in tribute to her new love, IMs. L Jill Carter.

Vern Stewart flew in from Washington, D.C., to present the Peter Austin Memorial Award, and this year, for the first time, it went to a group instead of an individual. For their ongoing service to the community in many ways—and always in an efficient and consistent manner—the Phoenix Uniform Club received the prize. President Jim Maher and Robb accepted on behalf of the club. They enjoyed a much-deserved standing ovation.

Meanwhile, the judges were taking notes and scrutinizing the candidates. The contestants had each undergone a 15-minute interview earlier that day in an upstairs hideaway at Leticia's. Each could receive a maximum of 1000 points (400 interview, 200 image, 200 speech and 200 physique) from each judge, with whoever came closest to the possible 6,000 points copping the title.

Of course, they saved the jock appearance for last. The crowd was respectful and responded with bursts of applause at each segment. The dynamic vocalist Pulse then got the place rocking, and La Cougar again (s-t-r-e-t-ch-i-n-g) did a funny take on be-bear! Then the laughs came a mile a minute as Sabrina Matthews stopped the show with her iconoclastic brand of comedy. They loved her!

Finally, the moment of truth arrived. The contestants came onstage and the winners' envelopes were delivered by tallymasters Tim Wong and George Carreras to Kyle Brandon, who placed the



Mr. August 1998 on the BCC, "Lion" of Novato. Mr. September will be chosen Thursday, May 1, at the Eagle.

Mister Marcus

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 24

The dating game at Daddy's tonight. Win a date with a daddy or a boy. Raffle tickets with goodies amounting to \$1000 or more. Danny Williams does the emcee chores.

Weekend, April 25-28

The Black & Tans' "Maneuvers '97" weekend, with lots and lots of uniform activities including a Sunday beer bust at the Gauntlet II.

In New York, Leather Leadership Conference presented by GMSMA with a \$50 fee. All the major East Coast leather icons will gather at the Lesbian/Gay Center, 208 West 23rd St. Call (212) 727-9878 if you need more details.

Constantines MC 500 overnighter to Reno, lodging at Colonial Motor Inn downtown for Gold Diggers '97. For more info, call Kit at 738-9465 or Al at 863-3744.

Great news! Club Eros celebrates its fifth anniversary as one of the top playhouses in the Bay Area with a big blast from 2000 to 2300. Every body who's anybody will be there.

American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, D.C., choosing American Leatherman, Leatherwoman and Leatherboy at various venues most of the weekend. I'll be there judging, so you'll get all the exclusive tea with photos of the event.

Saturday, April 26

If you've bid on any of Psychophant's work at Auto

Erotica (aka the Dildo Mines), today the successful bidders can collect their loot - 100 percent of the proceeds go to the AEF.

Mr. Boston Leather contest at the Ramrod in Beantown, and Mr. Piston Leather at the Piston Bar in Long Beach, Calif. That's two more to trot the runway at IML in Chicago. Congrats to Charles Carley in Boston and John Clifton in Long Beach, the principal promoters of these two competitions.

GSGRA-Bay Area Chapter throws a beer bust and barbecue at Greg's Ballroom in San Jose, plus a Hot Ash party (bring cigars!) from 1500 to 1900.

Skivvies Party at the Turf Club in Hayward with a beer bust beginning at 2100. Dancing in your scanties is only \$5; otherwise, it's \$8!

Sunday, April 27

Lou Duff's rope class, 1100-1345, at Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. For more details, call Lou at 550-0122.

Monday, April 28

Hamburger Mary's 25th birthday party tonight with a blast to end all blasts. Drop by and say hi to Rose and all their great staff!

Thursday, May 1

The Edge celebrates its sixth anniversary party tonight. I'll give you all the details as soon as Eric Weinmann squeezes it out of The Old Bag!

second runner-up bronze medal on Lance Porria. Next, IMs. L Jill Carter stepped forward with the first runner-up medal and draped it around Barry Rogers' neck. More bedlam.

A hush fell as Gary Virginia stepped up to perform his last official act as Mr. SF Leather! The envelope was opened by Queen Cougar and she boomed: "Mr. San Francisco Leather 1997 is... Tom Powers!" Tumult in the aisles! For the second year, the contestant from Daddy's Bar had taken the top honors. It was exactly 2330 and still Saturday night. The crowd rushed to the stage to congratulate the three finalists. Needless to say, the victory party was at Daddy's, where the bubbly flowed and whoops and hollers could be heard echoing all over Castro Canyon.

Now Mr. Powers must prepare himself for the next step: Chicago! Will the IML judges be ready for a leather activist who speaks five or more languages? Who is dedicated to his tribe? Who is dedicated to fundraising and raising consciousness? See you in Chicago? You do have your tickets?

Earlier in the week, on Thursday, April 17, the Bears of San Francisco staged a little ceremony at the Ramada Plaza Hotel on Market St. and presented a whopping total of \$24,000 (\$8000 each) to the designated beneficiaries of Bear Rendezvous '97: AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center and Internation-

al Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. Bravo! Those bears really know how to do it!

Later that same night, another record crowd filled the Eagle to capacity as the search for Mr. August 1998 on the BC calendar got under way. Out-of-town judges Jill Carter, Paul Yinger and Vern Stewart put the four worthies through their paces. When the scores were tallied, the winner was Mike "Lion" Kralka, a fuzzy 6'1", 180 pounder from Novato. The runner-up was "A.J." Landry. Only four spots remain, and Mr. September will be chosen next Thursday, May 1, with Todd Fulton, Juan Carlos and John Edwards judging. See you there?

Mister Marcus

Ms. Golden Gate Leather Beth Downey greets her new title "husband" Tom Powers a few minutes after he was named Mr. SFLeather.

Mister Marcus

Congratulations are in order for another long-running SoMa class act! Hamburger Mary's celebrates its 25th anniversary on Monday, April 28! Rose and her staff continue to make natives and visitors alike welcome and offer up those vittles that keep you coming back for more.

I could go on and on about Mary's, which was only half the size it is now in the early days. The bar and dining room area were a laundromat in the early '70s. The cast of characters that shone so brightly in those days was too much for TV. Alas, many of them are no longer with us, but in the Mary's family, they are legendary and still very much alive. ▼



Mister Marcus

Judge IMs. L Jill Carter, Mr. SF Leather Tom Powers (here he is again!) and Daddy Philip Turner of Daddy's, the latter the winning MSL sponsor for the second year in a row!

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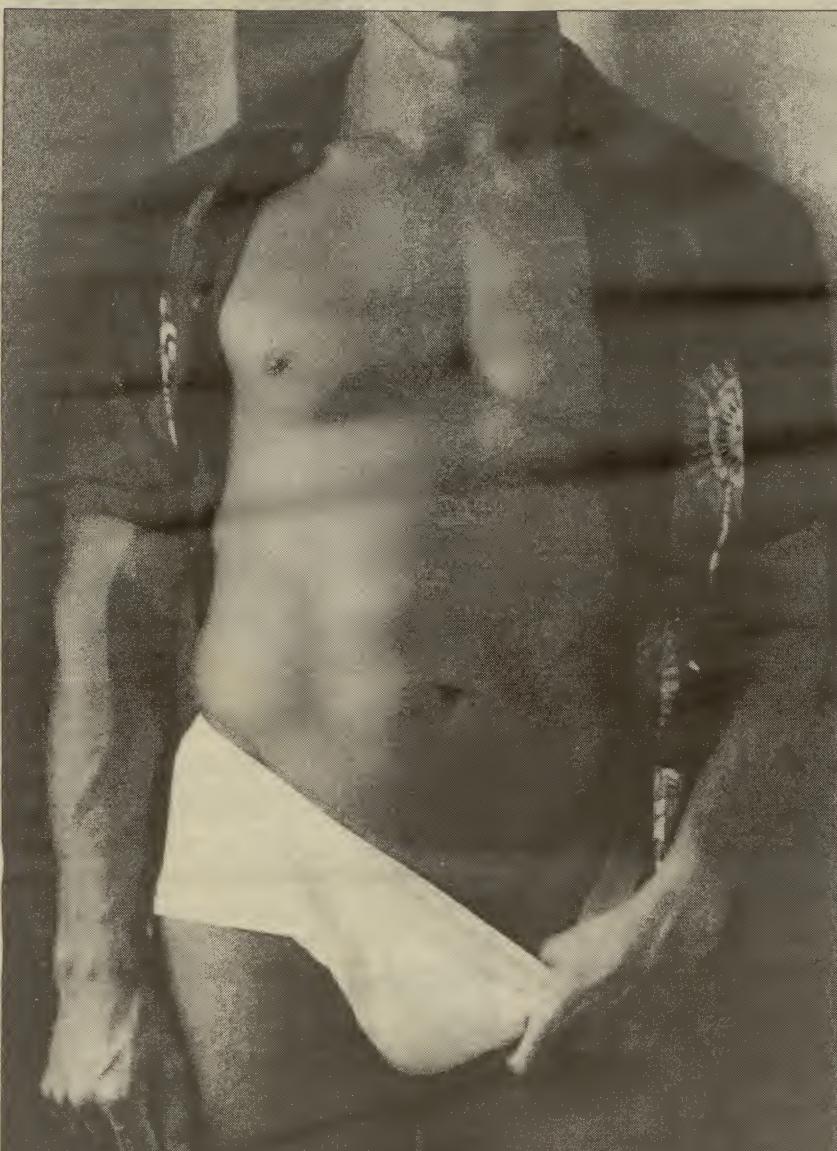
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PARTING GLANCES

Sean? 3/21 B. Buddies

You baseball cap, great kisser and awesome body. Me: white boy, wanted to talk more but had to find my ride. You sounded so sweet. Want to get together again?? Mitch. ☎ 5701.

FIT 2140 BURBANK To SF Easter
You: blk, shirt & tie. Me: wht, jeans & T-shirt. We read the same magazines, smiled a lot. Pls call. ☎ 5702.

Daniel 3/25 Tues.
You responded to my ad about leather & rubber; was impressed! Tried to call, but phone # you left me doesn't work (area code?). Please call so we can get together! ☎ 5703.

Phantom Of The Opera Tues. 4/8
After the show you gave me two thumbs up. Tried to find you outside. Really wish we'd talked. Please call. ☎ 5901.

Peninsula Y
Hey blue and silver Chevy Blazer, Jeep Grand Cherokee is interested in you. ☎ 5805.

Stanford Mall 3/24 @ 4PM
I catch your smile & follow you to parking & stood by the curb only to watch you go in your Toyota truck. Call me I can't get you off my mind. ☎ 5706.

Mark P. Oscar Night Delivery
I delivered you from Tony Roma's. The ribs were hot but you were hotter. Would love to play with your beautiful chest & butt. Please call. Jonathan. ☎ 5704.

3/24 Civic Ctr BART 3:40PM
Fremont train; you and I waited for delayed doors to open, we smiled; dbl takes. You: khaki shorts w/sweater around waist; Me: trying to find you. ☎ 5707.

Port Flix At Castro Theater
Fri. 4/4. You: mega-furry bearded Dad, sitting next to me, brown beard, glasses. You left early. Call for complete oral worship and more. 3-way OK, too! ☎ 5801.

Phantom Pomodoro 4/3 6ish
You sitting by window I was walking by. You were extremely handsome and wearing blue T-shirt. Me: USC hat. Would like to meet you. ☎ 5902.

Friday 3/21 Castro St. Muni 7AM
Forced us to wait for third train to Embarcadero; you short, dark hair, great eyes. Me: graying hair, green sweatshirt. Want to pick-up conversation where we left off. Coffee? ☎ 5705.

Hance!!!
Remember how you sat on my lap, cuddled and kissed me at that Monday night (March 24, 97 in San Jose). Can I see you again? Crazy about you! ☎ 5802.

Good Friday F-Market Lther Dad
Mid afternoon 3/28-1st: F-line, 2nd: 1 block from Virgin you carrying Nordie's bag. You: short buzzed cut, goatee, polo, keys left. Me: leather cub in boots & suspenders. Both: wearing mirrors. I responded to greeting w/"Hi Daddy." I'd like to say more-Dinner? ☎ 5708.

Muni M Line April 2
I got onto the train, you gave your seat to a woman. You: orange long sleeve shirt, jeans. Me: blue plaid pants & black shirt. Muni was slow, out of at Castro. Smoke was in the station. Would like to meet you. Call. ☎ 5803.

4/12 Len From San Jose & Virginia
You were looking 4 places to live in Guerneville. Came into the park I managed in Ford Explorer. Give you my card. Willing to travel to see you again, can't get you off my mind. ☎ 5903.

Bearded Cigar Smoker In Castro
We passed each other, cringed, but I couldn't stop. Me: tall, handsome, bearded, buzz cut. Let's meet and enjoy a nice big stogie together. ☎ 5804.

Fantasy Guy Please Call Back
You runner wanted massage. You called my pager twice unable to call back. You sound interesting would love to worship you body, stretch your legs, massage first & see what happens. ☎ 5806.

Sun 4/6 Market & Church, ATM
You: red sweater w/white stripe, jeans & B-ball cap. Me: short hair, blue jacket, sunglasses, returning movies, riding in convertible. About 4:30P. Would love to meet. Coffee? Beer? ☎ 5807.

4/12 Len From San Jose & Virginia
You were looking 4 places to live in Guerneville. Came into the park I managed in Ford Explorer. Give you my card. Willing to travel to see you again, can't get you off my mind. ☎ 5903.

4/13 Van Ness/California
You: blond, well dressed, walking towards Polk. Me: tall, brown hair,

multi-colored sweater, blue pants, boarding #1 Cal. We waved goodbye. Wanna meet? ☎ 5904.

Mitch At The Symphony Wed 4/9
You're with a non-profit land preservation agency. We visited at Orchestra Left before the concert at Davies Symphony Hall. Please call. Want to add a postscript to our conversation. ☎ 5905.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Affectionate Caring Romantic
GWM, 34yo, 5'7", 135#, dark hair/eyes. Enjoy travel, the arts, theater, hiking, cooking & staying in with a good movie, beaches, walking, spending time with a special man. Me: HIV+, ☎ 5709.

I Needs A Boyfriend
Seeking GWM, age 39-50 yr, & attractive, handsome. My name is Tsu-Tsui. I'm Japanese, 40yr, 5'6", 140#, smooth, clean shaven. ☎ 5710.

Me4U = U4Me = A+4Relationships
Cute guy: Nordic blonde, blue eyes, SGWM, handsome, sexy, warm, humorous, lovable; early 40's-seeks dating to lead to mutual, attraction, eventual LTR with 24-38yo SGWM collegiate type, goodlooking, sexy, unaffected, loving & romantic. ☎ 5711.

The Fulfilling Thing
About sucking you off ain't your big meat but your spouting load, swallowed to last drop. You'll ask me back; I come you cum! Anytime. Starting now! ☎ 5712.

Friendly Daddy Needs Love
GWM, 6'2", 250#, brown/blue, professional & discreet. Enjoys mutual massage. Movies, dining out, weekend trips. Looking for GWM, 30-50 to share interest & love. ☎ 5713.

Opposites Do Attract
ISO HIV+, 30+, 40+, big pecs-biceps w/min & heart wanting LTR. Me: 5'10", 190#, crewcut, stocky hrd-wrk, reg guy ISO growing old w/partner. ☎ 5714.

Mr. Sandman I Need A Dream!
Healthy HIV+ LM, 27, 5'5", 175#, pierced, tattooed, cute home bodish, into movies, dancing, Star Trek and other stuff seek W/LM, 25-40, for talks, coffee, bonding, cuddling & kissing. ☎ 5715.

Wanted: Asian/Latin Boyfriend
Me: WM, 44, 5'9", 155#, HIV+, doing great prostate, fun, smart, loves outdoors, creative, many interests, loyal & supportive seeks companion to share the quiet, magic moments of life. ☎ 5716.

On A Spiritual Path
HIV+, WM, 32, 170#, hazel eyes, Gemini, attrac, sense of humor, healthy! Mind/body/spirit, into: tennis, outdoors, spirituality (Holistic), movies, camping/sports. You: 25-35, attrac, spiritual, nature lover, masc, healthy w/a good heart, race not important. ☎ 5717.

White Male; 46, 5'11", 185 lbs.
Into outdoors, country living. I hunt, fish and camp, and want a partner. Be Caucasian, physically fit, 40 and under. Be masculine. Be real. Be a man. ☎ 5718.

Romantic Asian Top Dreamer
Handsome, healthy, GAM sks classy, mature, gentleman, over 50 yrs. Me: 5'8", 140#, 40 yrs, professional, seeking for LTR (monogamous), who I can trust/respect, honesty as father type of person and sense of humor. ☎ 5719.

Intergenerational Couple?
GWM, 64, 6'2", 200#, bald, mustache, hairy chest, retired, travels. Seeks GAM, 45 or under, for friendship and hopefully much more. ☎ 5720.

Clean Cut All-American Guy
Seeks monogamous relationship. Me: 31, 5'8", 160#, muscular, lightly hairy, firm body, brn/brown, handsome face, HIV+, professional. You: similar GAM/GLM, versatile, stable. ☎ 5721.

Levis & Motorcycle Jackets
I like levis & motorcycles jackets & kicking back but I've grown up on fine wines & guys in tuxes. Be 25-40, HIV+, & like fun times. I'm 6'1", 210#, 34yo. ☎ 5808.

Attractive Asian From SJ
Filipino 29, 5'7", 145#. Seeking a masculine white male, ages of 25-37, for friendship, maybe more. Palo Alto-San Jose only. ☎ 5809.

GAM Seeks GWM
26, 5'8", 135#, slim, smooth, sincere, sensible, mellow, adventurous, independent, old fashioned normal guy seeks similar GAM, 23-33, for friend. ☎ 5810.

Smooth Blond Seeks Partner
East Bay, 40+, strawberry blonde, good-looking HIV+, music, sexy body. Seeks a loving partner, let's set up a date! ☎ 5822.

Italian Seeks WASP
GWM, 5'10", 150#, ISO clean-cut, blue/green eyed, blond, 28-40, 5'10"+ for friend/relationship. Interest include, running, gardening, hiking, cooking, movies, & modern rock. ☎ 5811.

Dann Glikking New GWM in SF!
ISO very handsome, masc., vers., friendship, 27, 5'8", smooth hot body, smart, tasteful, great in bed. Gimme some juicy bus soon! Be first! ☎ 5812.

GWM 30yo 6'3" 195# Br/Br HIV
I enjoy biking, crosswords, star gazing, cooking, beach combing, Sunday papers, jazz and road trips. Looking for a small framed, HIV-, down to earth, guy in his 30's or 40's. ☎ 5813.

Sex Slave—Companion
GWM, 53, 5'7", 140#, masculine top, NS, HIV-, safe and sane. You: need to feel owned, fuck, suck, spanked, HIV-, NS, between 25-40. ☎ 5814.

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 31, 5'7", 150#, HIV-, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee looking for GWM for friendship or maybe more between 25-37 years old. Enjoy quality of life. Call me. ☎ 5815.

Want Something Different?
Me: German, 20, from the East Bay, neither stupid nor ugly, looks for young, non-fake, sophisticated friend to have fun & interesting talks with. Don't call, mail! ☎ 5816.

Extremely Goodlooking Twosome
Wanted. I'm muttato, 33, 5'11", 195, all muscle, and first half of two some, you are second half, short, cute, boyish and wanting lots of mutual affection. (HIV+) ☎ 5817.

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times seeks another HIV+, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 5818.

Not Gen-X/Not a Boomer Just 33
 lately it has been 26 or 40 something. Want to connect w/guys my age: me: GWM, 33, 5'7", 150, in shape, attractive. You: GWM, 31-35, in shape. ☎ 5819.

Special Thai Young Man Wanted
GWM, 45, brown/blue, mustache, 6', 170#, HIV+, looking for 20-35 yrs, masculine, passionate, affectionate Thai, into sex and LTR. I love Thailand. Let's meet. "Sawatdee Krap." ☎ 5820.

Handsome GWM 31, 6'3", 180#
Hazel eyes, shaved head, mustache, gardener, musician, varied interests seeks similar GWM, 30/39, emotionally stable, fun, slim-built, relationship minded. No Nancy boys, recovery girls, gym freaks please. S 5821.

HIV+ Mustache Top Wanted!
Tickle my fancy! Concord area bottom, HIV+, 35, 6', 190, hairy, brown, blue, seeks local guy, 35-50ish. I love em big and bushy—Think Village People. ☎ 5823.

Seeking Macho Men
Goodlooking GWM, 40, 6ft., 187 lbs. and HIV+, seeks goodlooking macho men for good times, and more. I have dark hair, mustache, blue eyes & smooth body. Tattoos a plus. NS/ND, light drinker. ☎ 5906.

Chinese/Japanese Man Sought By
German GWM, 45, 5'5", 155#, HIV+, blue eyes. I like the outdoors, tennis, gym, concerts, books, travel, romantic dinners and lots of cuddling. You too? I'd love to meet you. ☎ 5907.

Backpacker Rockhound
6'5", Irish German Daddy extends helping hand to boy who enjoys indoor and outdoor activities. Good to be considerate, honest, student, slim, smooth, cute, Latin, Asian. ☎ 5908.

Attractive Latino 26 HIV+
I'm 5'7", 165#, muscular, clean cut, student, into natural sex, movies, and traveling. Seeking Latinos or whites under 35. Prefer NS and broad minded. ☎ 5909.

Not For Sex Ad
GAM, 5'7", 150 lbs, 31 yo, sincere, caring prof, enjoys traveling, design, culture ISO prof. GM, 30-45, prefer GWM must be honest. Giving goal oriented, secure, confident. For possible life partner. ☎ 5910.

Cuddle Me Elmo
Hairy, heavy white bear, 37. Work swing, live in Mississ. love books, Trek, writing, zines. Seek topless literary Latino (fit, hung) for non-anal body/mind passion. ☎ 5911.

Black Man Short Natural
Dreads, beard, HIV-, 40, 6'1", 170, seeks friends. Music teacher, masseur and gardener. NS/ND/no drugs. Vegetarian. Into occult & spiritual practices & very simple living. I live in the mountains of Mendocino county. I visit Bay area often, not looking for sex buddy. ☎ 5912.

New To SF, Seeking GAM or GHM
GWM, 40, 170, 5'10", masculine, handsome, adventurous, unpretentious. Into travel, outdoors, film. Seeking monogamous relationship or friendship. Be 30+, smart. Am HIV+, asymptotic, working, healthy. Your status irrelevant. ☎ 5922.

Slim Gukng Hip Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV+, seeks similar slim, 50+, fair hair guy. Short, small dick. OK. Smoke OK. San only! ☎ 5912.

Sexual Healing
GGM, top, bottom, 40's, ISO GWM bottom, 50 yrs or above who's physically & emotionally available to pursue a LTR. I'm a little smoker & drinker. You must be medium to stocky built. ☎ 5913.

Mosly Top 4 Mostly Bottom
GWM, mid-40's, HIV+, yang seeking yin for regular long, slow, passionate, sensual evenings/night together lending to possible LTR. Into swimming, biking, camping, walks, movies, videos, theater. Great cock. Let's meet. ☎ 5914.

Southern Gentleman
44 yr old, easy-going, white Southern gentleman, new to SF. 5'11", 175 lbs, brt eyes, balding, hairy with average dad-type looks seeks LTR with smooth, slender top 35 & under. Enjoy theater, movies, dining out. ☎ 5915.

Someone To Wake Up To
Easy-going, Independent AM, 30, 5'6", 155#, looking to meet men, 25-35, for dating to leading to monogamous romance. Likes: tennis, long walks, short stories, hanging out w/friends, quiet evenings home. ☎ 5916.

Needed 1 Prince Charming
GWM, 6'5", blnd/blu, 40 seeks African American Prince for romance, movies, music, more. Must be sweet & sincere and looking for same. ☎ 5917.

Master & Biker?
Young man seeks guidance, training, companionship and love. I offer myself, complete loyalty. Obedience and affection. Sex positive, leather/biker oriented. Masculine, hairy preferred. Please no clean-cut guys. Thank you. S 5919.

Complete Package
East Bay GWM, 51, blonde/brown, beard, ISO compatible mate to share garden home and lifestyle. Versatile top, hung, HIV+, prefers Mediterranean submissive mature versatile/bottom. ☎ 5920.

Uncut Latin Plus Love Fingers
My long delicious, foreskin, hung, fat, juicy dick wants dedicated oralist. I have hungry long tongue for big hairy ass and love fingers for you HIV-. ☎ 5921.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Hot Latino Top
Me: 36 yrs, 5'4". You're 30-40 yrs, bottom, slim, clean & attractive. I like to fuck guys, Latinos, Italians & whites. ☎ 5722.

Latin Or European? Got A Nice Uncut Boner? Want Sucked? GWM, 30-6', 195#, 9" cut, gives head. Drink beer, watch porno, lay back. ☎ 5723.

ISO: Hung Black Studs
2 very hot white studs are looking to get fucked raw by hung black studs who like to play late in the Castro. Get serviced by 2 pussy boys! ☎ 5724.

Hard body Gym Jock Wanted
I want to fuck your rock-hard body with my hot 8" rock-hard dick & play with your tits, you must be a waist size of 28-31 inches. Veiny arms a plus. ☎ 5725.

Two Hungry Asians!
Early 20's Asian couples seek a top. you must be under 30 and are very goodlooking. Asian/Latino only. ☎ 5726.

Seeking Private SF Glory Holes
WM, 40's, HIV-, average build, verbal, needs head through your hole 2-3x week. You: HIV-, slim or muscular, submissive, deep throat cum lover. I cum several times per visit. ☎ 5727.

Cock Slave Wanted
I want a cock slave who will suck my dick for hours/days. Also into fucking, FF, WS, bondage, etc. have sling, bondage bar, toys. Take care of my dick & I'll take care of your needs. ☎ 5728.

Handsome Blond Top
Handsome 8" uncut, in shape, mustache, seeks friendly, sincere bottoms to 45 for hot times in the morning. Let's do it! ☎ 5729.

Afternoon Delight
East Bay drop by afternoons and we'll watch a hot flick while you fuck my face and feed me your big balls. ☎ 5730.

Fisting And Or Huge Nipples
masculine muscle Daddy, 47, great body with a big dick. Desires to fist in shape men up to 40 yrs old or play with in shape men with huge nipples. ☎ 5731.

Sex Slave Wanted
Handsome Asian bodybuilder with defined muscular physique, honey brown smooth skin needs hot tongue, expert wet mouth, resourceful cuts ass for pleasure. Want to get fisted up and used sensuously, want to be fisted, want to be fisted and cute. ☎ 5732.

E.B. Fuck Buddy Wanted
Me: 6', 160#, 45, white, HIV-. Want to suck, rim and get my hairy ass fucked. Any age, race. Camcord? ☎ 5733.

Lover
Bik Daddy, 6', 49, 200 lbs, into white and Latin submissive bottoms, 35+, with facial hair who are eager to please, massage, play safely. ☎ 5734.

Leather Daddy
Seeks submissive boy-slave, 25-35, short, slim, or gym-toned for domination, bondage, dog-training, flogging & sympathy. Brains a must, good looks desirable. ☎ 5735.

Man Pussy
Fuck my slick wet man-cunt and fill me with your love juice. GWM, 39, 6', 165#, HIV+, German/Italian. Also into handballing & watersports. Lean A+. ☎ 5736.

Leather Brothers Wanted
21yo leather cop cub looking 4 Brothers to play and hang with-possibly start a family. You: GWM, no drugs, have great outlook on life! ☎ 5737.

Young Seeking Young
23yo, GWM seeks attractive, 22-30, GWM for passionate, intimate sex. Looking for understanding & openness & friendship. Clean & sober responses only please. Thank you. ☎ 5738.

Wanna Empty Your Balls?
Strip down in darkness & feel my mouth wrapped around your cock & tongue darts in & out of your ass by hot Italian stud in Castro. ☎ 5739.

Cock Feeders Wanted
North Bay areas. Divorced white bi male training to suck hot men. Learning to cum. Obsessed by big cocks; 2 or more OK. Have wheels. My mouth is your pleasure, sir! ☎ 5824.

Bi White Muscle Sk Same Black
Built, muscular, meaty, hard body dude, 6'1/2, 40, seeks other sk8r, macho, built or meaty Black/Latino dude, 18-50, into str8-x videos. ☎ 5825.

Handsome HIV+ Regular Guy
Goodlooking, smooth, chin-shvn, tight body, hung, seeks similar regular guys, 30's, oral, top, it bondage. Fun & games. ☎ 5826.

Well Built Sks Well Hung
Handsome, masculine & very muscular BB w/defined & buffed physique, mid 30's, dark hair, sks in shape, hugely endowed men to worship hard muscle & big dick, you are 9"+, masculine. ☎ 5827.

Fantasy Oriented
New to SF, attractive, discreet PWM 36, wants to meet other professionals for very private rendezvous'. Have place. Clean, safe, fun and mutual pleasures. HIV-. ☎ 5828.

Wanna Sixty-Nine?
I'm 30, bi-racial-light skin, 5'11", 190#, muscular gym toned body, and very attractive and hope to meet truly attractive young men who love to hook for a sucking frenzy and close ness. ☎ 5924.

ISO Slave Boys
Club boys < 25 wanted by muscular v. handsome GWM, 37, be slender and ready for abuse. ☎ 5830.

Service For Hung Males
Bik male, 6'1", 190 lbs, hung, clean shaven, muscular, masculine. Will service other hung males, 18-45. Uncl a plus. Other things possible. Bi, straight OK. ☎ 5831.

X-JW Open 40 GWM 6'3" Btm
195, RWC attractive man HIV+, smoker, seeks: well hung, 7" or thick, top xpert, honest loving passionate, who will do anything to drive me to sexual heights, be sincere. Steady open relationship. S 5832.

Hungry White Ass 4 Yr Pleasure
Mature muscular bottom in Oakland seeks hung tops when enjoying fucking smaller guys. GWM, 5'5", 130 lbs, shaved head, goatee, healthy, HIV+, seeks men who love to use tits & ass. ☎ 5833.

I'm Yng Single Gdlikng & In Need
33yo, bottom boy, smooth, masculine, into adventure good sex like to party try new things with gdlikng hung tops, if we fit let's do it often. ☎ 5834.

Palo Alto 38 Asian Cockslucker
Seeks white guys to suck off. Prefer day time (BAM-3PM), 6"+ and beyond. Have car will travel. ☎ 5835.

Daytime Action
Stop by hotel room—drop by & drop your pants. Casual oral sex—quickies. Shoot your load all over me. Tell me what you want! ☎ 5836.

Regular Sex Buddy
This very cute African American, 26, 5'6", 160#, sk HIV-, single only guys of all ethnic backgrounds, 23-36 only. Be a top that enjoys being serviced. Honest & intelligent responses only! ☎ 5837.

Tall Hung Bareback Top
Athletic Daddy, big dick, vers., likes to ass & fuck. You: over 45, mas, in shape. Hung A+. ☎ 5838.

Free Snowboard Trias To Tahoes
Finest resorts for attractive Asian male snowboarder, 18-25. Be thin, smooth & mid-intermediate or better on the slopes. Good fun guaranteed. Call before the season turns to slush. ☎ 5839.

Romantic Bottom?
I'm average looking 5'8", 135, 40, top, 8", easy going, interesting, looking for average looking, friendly bottom, any race, weight prop, to height, for barbsk sex, friendship, maybe LTR. ☎ 5840.

Looking For Take-Charge Raunch
Top. I'm 44, 6'1", Brown hair, blue eyes. Into fantasy trips. Hairy a plus. ☎ 5841.

Just Shut-Up And Ride
WM, 30, 5'10", 195#, blonde/blue eyed, muscle hunk wants goodlooking & masculine men to pump me full of squirt—anytime. ☎ 5842.

To Savor/Swallow Your Load(s)
It is my reward for sucking you off good. Uncut great; hard all we need. I'm a size queen for loads, not dicks. Load wise, less ain't more—only more is more! ☎ 5923.

Krakatau/Vesuvius? Mt St Helen?
Mega-eruptions are an awesome sight! Shoot your personal best after incredible oral service from the local volcano maker. Speccs: GWM/bottoms less/throat/6'10/40s/penis/hair-challenged/smart and nice too. Leave your lava here. ☎ 5924.

19 YD Blond Bottom
Soccer player, great legs & ass, cute face, cute smooth freckled body. ISO older 35-55 Macho Muscle Dudes. Gang bang? Call me. ☎ 5925.

Playful Fun And Games!
Handsome Asian bodybuilder w/defined muscular physique, smooth skin needs expert mouth, responsive ass 4 his pleasure. Want to get tied up & used sensuously, want to be fisted, want to be fisted and cute. ☎ 5923.

Handsome HIV+ Regular Guy
Goodlooking, smooth, chin-shvn, tight body, hung, seeks similar regular guys, 30's, oral, top, it bondage. Fun & games. ☎ 5826.

ISO: A Beautiful Drag Queen
Well, well-mannered 7 handsome men (31 & 43) looking for a beautiful & sophisticated drag queen to take out on the town. ☎ 5938.

Seeking Flogger
Seeking friendly partner who likes to role-play and administer light to moderate flogging. ☎ 5939.

Still Looking For The Right Man
Handsome Italian man, 40, hairy, hung, top in LTR, needs more sex. Seeking a GWM, 40-45, versatile, hairy & in shape. If you responded before, pls try again. ☎ 5940.

Are You...
Black, 6'3", 6'6", 165#, 30s+, height/weight proportionate, aggressive, dominant top. Looking for an attractive, experienced Latin bottom boy? I'm 5'6", 135#, young looking 40y. Into BD, very verbal. No SM. ☎ 5941.

Bearded Dad Seeks Playmate
GWM, 60, 5'9", 150#, HIV+, white beard, black boots, seeks masculine GWM, GLM, GBM, 35-50, for touching, stroking. Short guys & facial hair a plus. ☎ 5849.

Bondage For Asians
WM, late 40's, will strip, tie you up, play with your cock/balls/its & make you cum. Muscular a plus. ☎ 5844.

Older Seeks Younger Skinny Boys
Me: smooth, 6'2", 260, GWM, lean & clean, muscular, masculine. Will service other hung males, 18-45. Me: same seeking playmates. ☎ 5926.

Special Person Seeks Same
For ongoing sexually intimate times. I'm 73, 5'7", 165#, and you are 18-40, who prefers being with an attractive, more mature romantic man. ☎ 5927.

Submissive Boy Will Serve You!
Seeking dominant stud to use me for your pleasure. Love to be face fucked and forced to service you. Love leather & uniforms. Blacks, Latinos & Italians are a plus. ☎ 5928.

Hole Seeks Pole
GWM, 29, 5'9", 180#, bln/blu, submissive bottom needs top to eat & plow my hairy bubbly butt. I love to suck cock. Your place, we bot HIV-. ☎ 5929.

Serious Bareback Fuckers
If you want a hot, juicy & wet cum fuck w/a well fucked ass. 1 on 1 or grps...GWM, 59, 5'11", 146#, goatee, shaved head, ISO men ht/wt prop. masc & serious only. Call now. ☎ 5930.

Lay Back And Enjoy
Attractive GWM, 40's, HIV-, 5'10", 165#, seeks GWM, 50 to 65, to lay back and have love mad to his big dick, 7 1/2" to 9", for hours. The best you will ever have! ☎ 5931.

Love Dominant Tops
GWM, 41, 6', 165#, seeks men any race, age & size for sex, especially long time fucking. Yours for pleasure. ☎ 5933.

East Bay 54 YD Liking For A Daddy
54 yr old looking for a older Daddy. I'm 5'8", 160#, brn hair, blue eyes w/7" dick. Wants to be in your arms tonight. ☎ 5934.

GBTM: Fisting Top/Small Hands
My boy is slight and can't take my hand. Your help expert will be nicely reciprocated. Well supplied play room. Fun parties. ☎ 5745.

Daytime Asshole-Eater
"Get your asshole eaten by a pro!" ☎ 5746.

Gay Wheelchair Men
Looking for men in wheelchair that are very horny & need sex. You have fantasies you would like to perform on me. I'm a very horny bottom, plus 7", nice balls that need worship & hard. GWM, early 50s, 5'2", slim build. ☎ 5747.

Romance And Submission
Attractive, intelligent foot boy, 27, for naturally dominant nurturing foot master—strong, honest, unpretentious man who appreciates devoted sensual attention to his big feet & body. Tall, vital, affectionate, outdoor types A+. ☎ 5748.

UR Mase
5'8", fit body, short hair, stash, goatee, or shaved. Not a want, but into raunch heavily and be versatile. Red hair, cops, guards, fireman A+++. I fit the same criteria in the ad & I'm also HIV-. I'm very hot, so no dogs please. ☎ 5852.

Hot Guy W/Toe Ring Sks Barefoot
Buddy. Masculine, tan, goodlooking East Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#, HIV-, craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe JO, fantasies. Light oral, toughened soles OK. Further friendship possible. ☎ 5853.

FF Pig Btm Can't Get Enough
50 yrs, fit body, short hair, stash, goatee, or shaved. Not a want, but into raunch heavily and be versatile. Red hair, cops, guards, fireman A+++. I fit the same criteria in the ad & I'm also HIV-. I'm very hot, so no dogs please. ☎ 5852.

Evening Telephone
GWM, 50, oral-anal bottom seeks a secure couple, 45+, HIV-. Am in great shape, 5'10", 175#. Race unimp. w/prop to hgt. ☎ 5948.

Open My Partner Up
Hot couple, 36/43 positive. New to SF from NJ. Into kinky action, FF, toy bondage, rimming, etc. Be 35-50, goodlooking, good shape. ☎ 5947.

Other
Modem Computer Games
Would like to meet others to play command & conquer, war craft, heroes of might & magic, etc. Me: 40 yr old retired Marine. ☎ 5853.

Music, Opera, Ballet, Queens
Looking for other GM for listening, learning, conversation; good food, good wine, good times. Call me for details. ☎ 5855.

Spire The Rod...
English former headmaster punishes young gentlemen. Respectable gentle environment, but naked boys will be thoroughly flogged. Upper Haight also Russian River. ☎ 5949.

Tarzan Wrestling!
6', 180#, Tarzan seek friendly guys to wrestle. Clean technique. Nobody gets hurt. Both guys win. Friendly muscular guy, fun to wrestle with. my mat or nude beach. Scared? I'll let ya win. ☎ 5950.

Rim Chair Service
Your hole must protrude & have lots of lip on it. You: in shape, hot, 21-45. Me: very attractive, masc, hot, great tongue, 5'11", 40, 165#. ☎ 5845.

Feet Dark Socks And More
Goodlooking Latino, 30, 5'11", 190, dark features, HIV-, Virgo, size 12, NS/N/D, would like to meet Latinos or whites under 32 into foot fetish. Serious only. No lies. ☎ 5846.

Cigar Sex
Goodlooking cigar smoker, bearded, masculine, 37, 6'4", 180, seeking top or versatile, masculine cigar smokers with facial hair. I enjoy all forms of sex from vanilla to heavy kink. ☎ 5847.

FETISHES
Hungry Oral Subm Bottom Wnted
By hot man, 58, 5'8", 130 lbs., good weight, aggressive, verbal. Into hot masculine outfit, domination, roll playing, sensual pleasures. Call if you're in good shape. ☎ 5740.

Santa Rosa Area Dildo Action
Attractive GWM bottom, exhibitionist sees tops for nasty dildo play. Interested include big toys, dirty talk, mirrors. SF and Sonoma county also. All calls returned. Let's play with my hole. ☎ 5942.

Tickle Bottom Seeks Top
Hold me down, make me squirm. Tie me up, make me squirt. Sexy boy, 30, 5'8", 130, into being restrained, slow JO. You are in charge. ☎ 5742.

Thirsty Cockslucker
Loves piss & cum. Stop by in Castro. Uncuts A+. ☎ 5743.

Hairy-Muscled Wrestler/Boxer
158 lbs, hairy-muscled, skinhead wants buddies/oppoenents for no-rules bards-a-base in boots in privity gym w/ring, tough enough? Also into leather, rope, cuffs, JO. ☎ 5944.

Mummification
At Leathernecks I saw a bottom have vacuum cylinder put on his nipples and dick. He was then mummified and I fantasize about having this done to me. ☎ 5945.

Garter Belt & Stockings
GWM, 40, 165#, bottom novice, looking for dominant bear top, safe play only. ☎ 5946.

Cum Upload On My Face
Top loads are better than one. Mature, straight WM has fantasy of licking your shaft, sucking your balls as you take turns jerking off on my face. ☎ 5854.

Open My Partner Up
Hot couple, 36/43 positive. New to SF from NJ. Into kinky action, FF, toy bondage, rimming, etc. Be 35-50, goodlooking, good shape. ☎ 5947.

Fill Me Up
GWM, 50, oral-anal bottom seeks a secure couple, 45+, HIV-. Am in great shape, 5'10", 175#. Race unimp. w/prop to hgt. ☎ 5948.

Open My Partner Up
Hot couple, 36/43 positive. New to SF from NJ. Into kinky action, FF, toy bondage, rimming, etc. Be 35-50, goodlooking, good shape. ☎ 5947.

Other
Modem Computer Games
Would like to meet others to play command & conquer, war craft, heroes of might & magic, etc. Me: 40 yr old retired Marine. ☎ 5853.

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Looking for other GM for listening, learning, conversation; good food, good wine, good times. Call me for details. ☎ 5855.

Spire The Rod...
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- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

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Sliding Scale Available
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Page 6
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Evenings and
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In and Out
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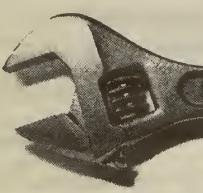
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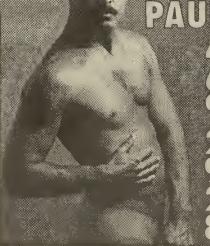
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Fullbody deep touch 24 hrs 303-4711

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Italian, 6', 180#, Swedish nude massage 9am-10pm Jonathan (510) 658-2437

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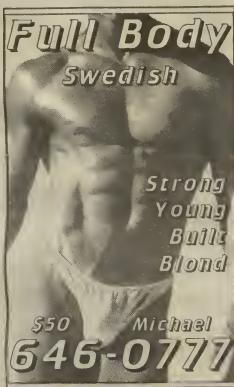
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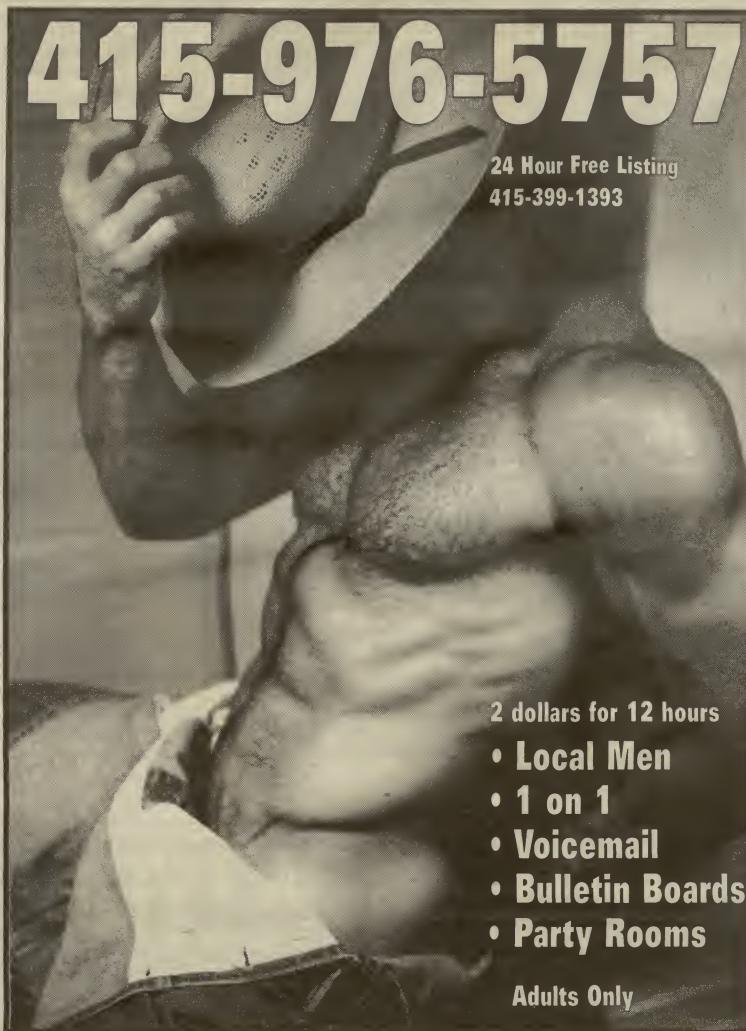
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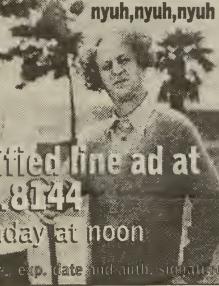


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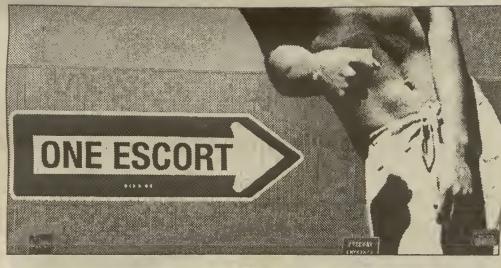
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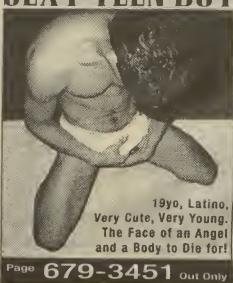
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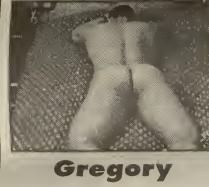


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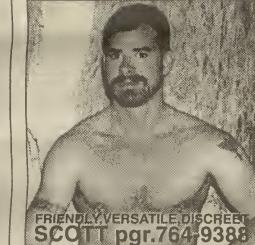
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